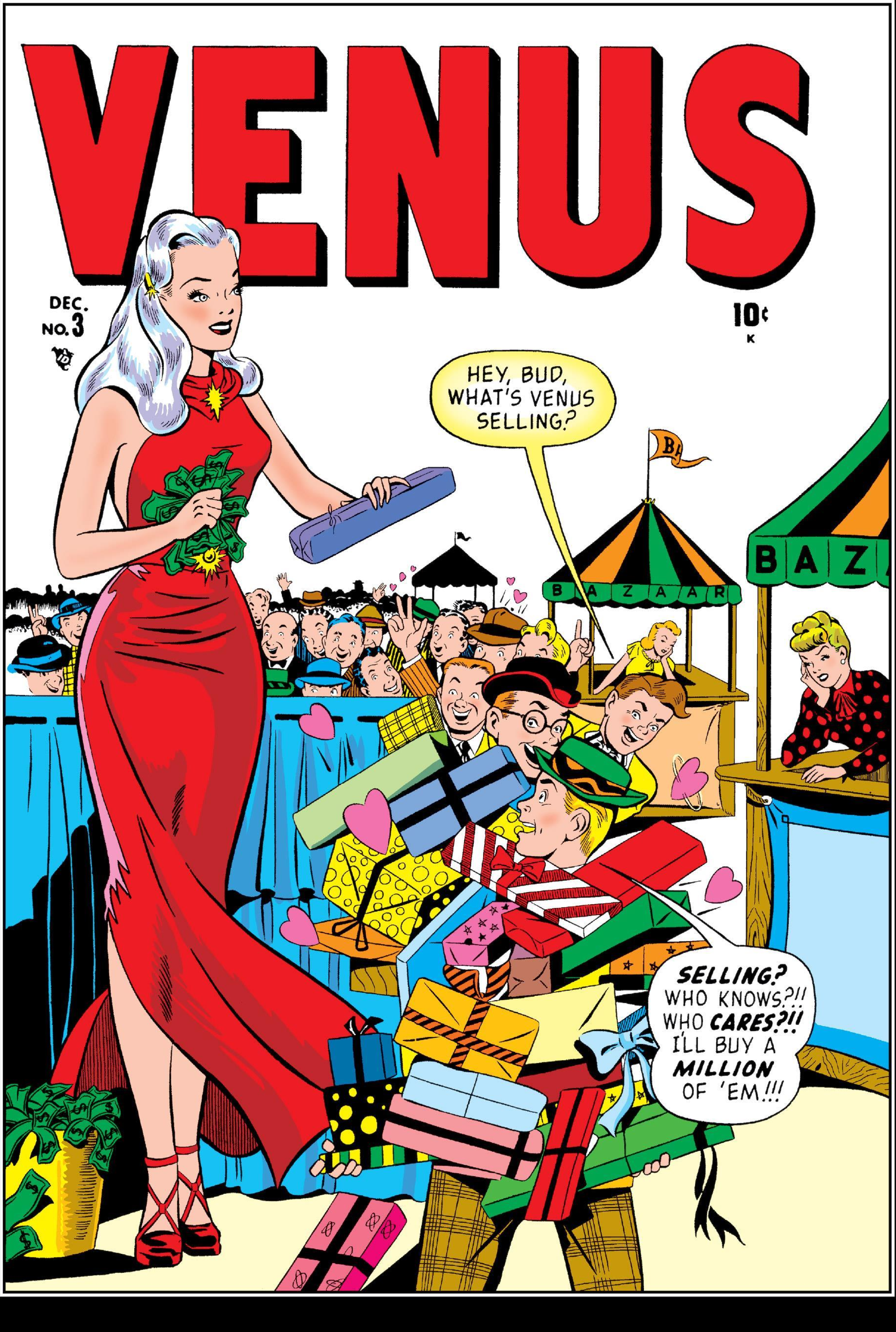
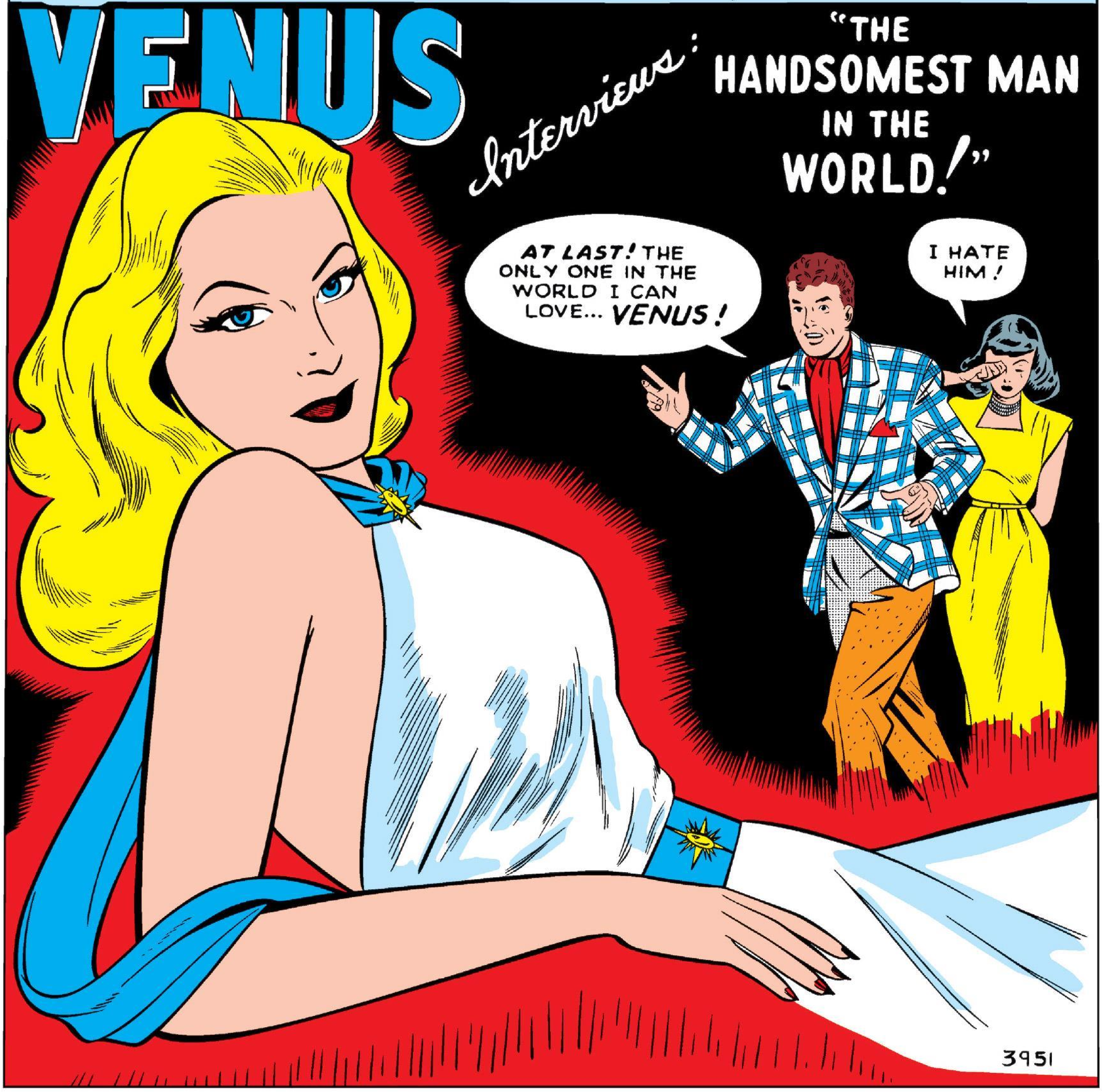

VENUS
DEC.
NO. 3
10¢
K
HEY, BUD, WHAT'S VENUS SELLING?
BAZAAR
BAZ
SELLING? WHO KNOWS?!! WHO **CARES?!!** I'LL BUY A **MILLION** OF 'EM!!!

Editorial Consultant: Jean Thompson, M.D., Psychiatrist, Child Guidance Bureau; Board of Education, New York City

VENUS *Interviews:* "THE HANDSOMEST MAN IN THE WORLD!"


AT LAST! THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD I CAN LOVE... VENUS!
I HATE HIM!
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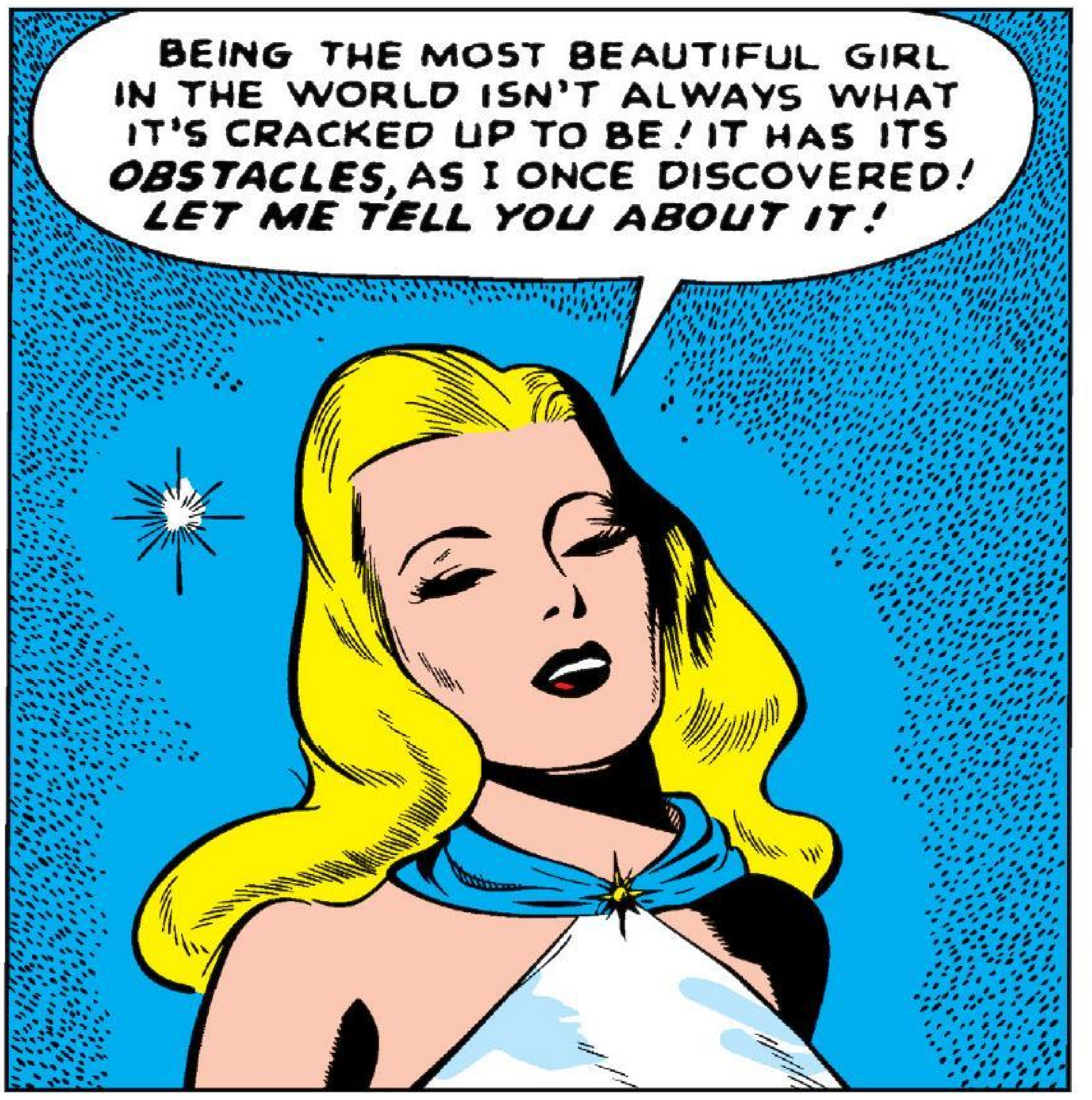
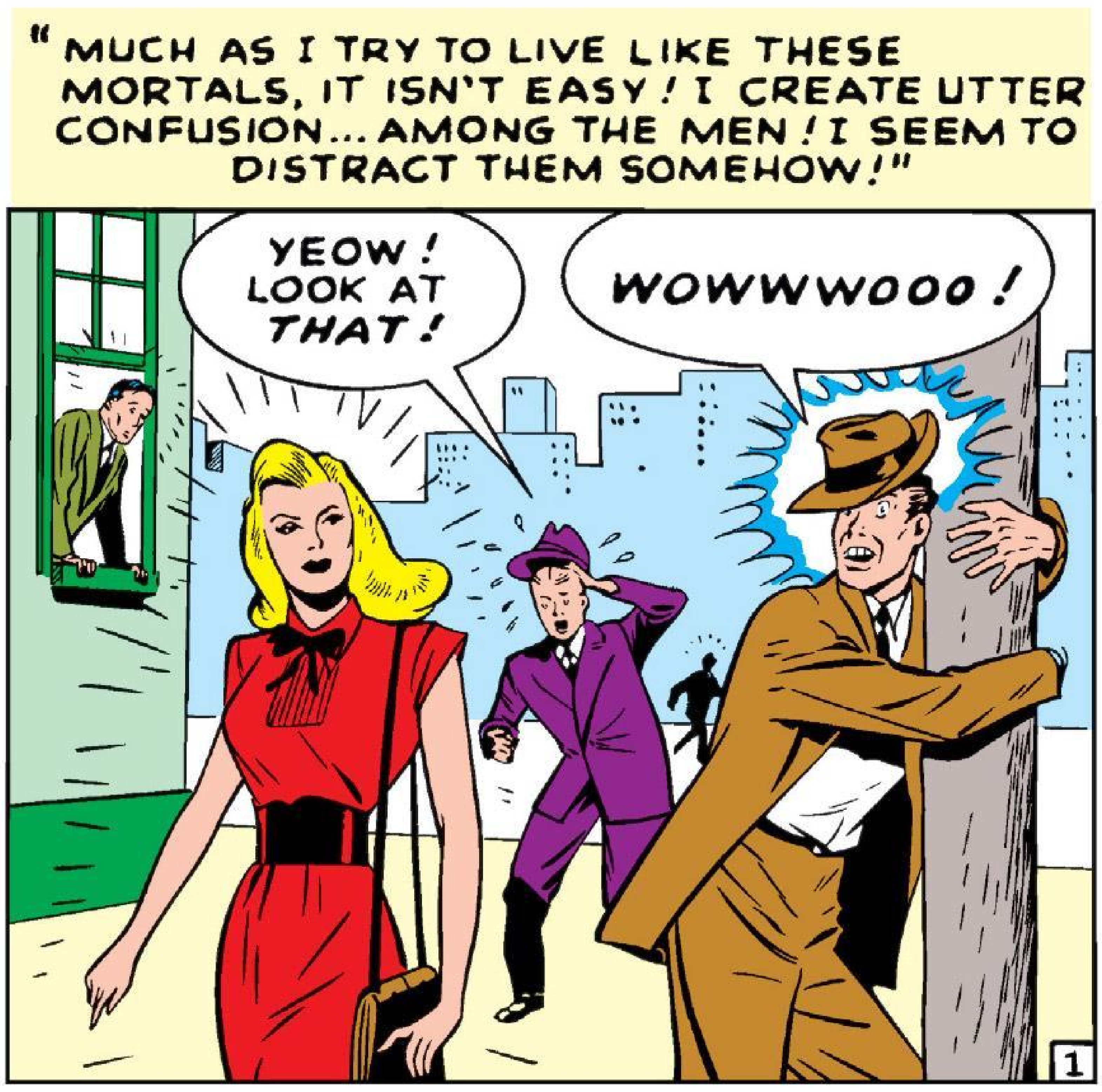

BEING THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD ISN'T ALWAYS WHAT IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE! IT HAS ITS OBSTACLES, AS I ONCE DISCOVERED! LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT IT!


"MUCH AS I TRY TO LIVE LIKE THESE MORTALS, IT ISN'T EASY! I CREATE UTTER CONFUSION... AMONG THE MEN! I SEEM TO DISTRACT THEM SOMEHOW!"
YEOW! LOOK AT THAT!
WOWWWOOO!

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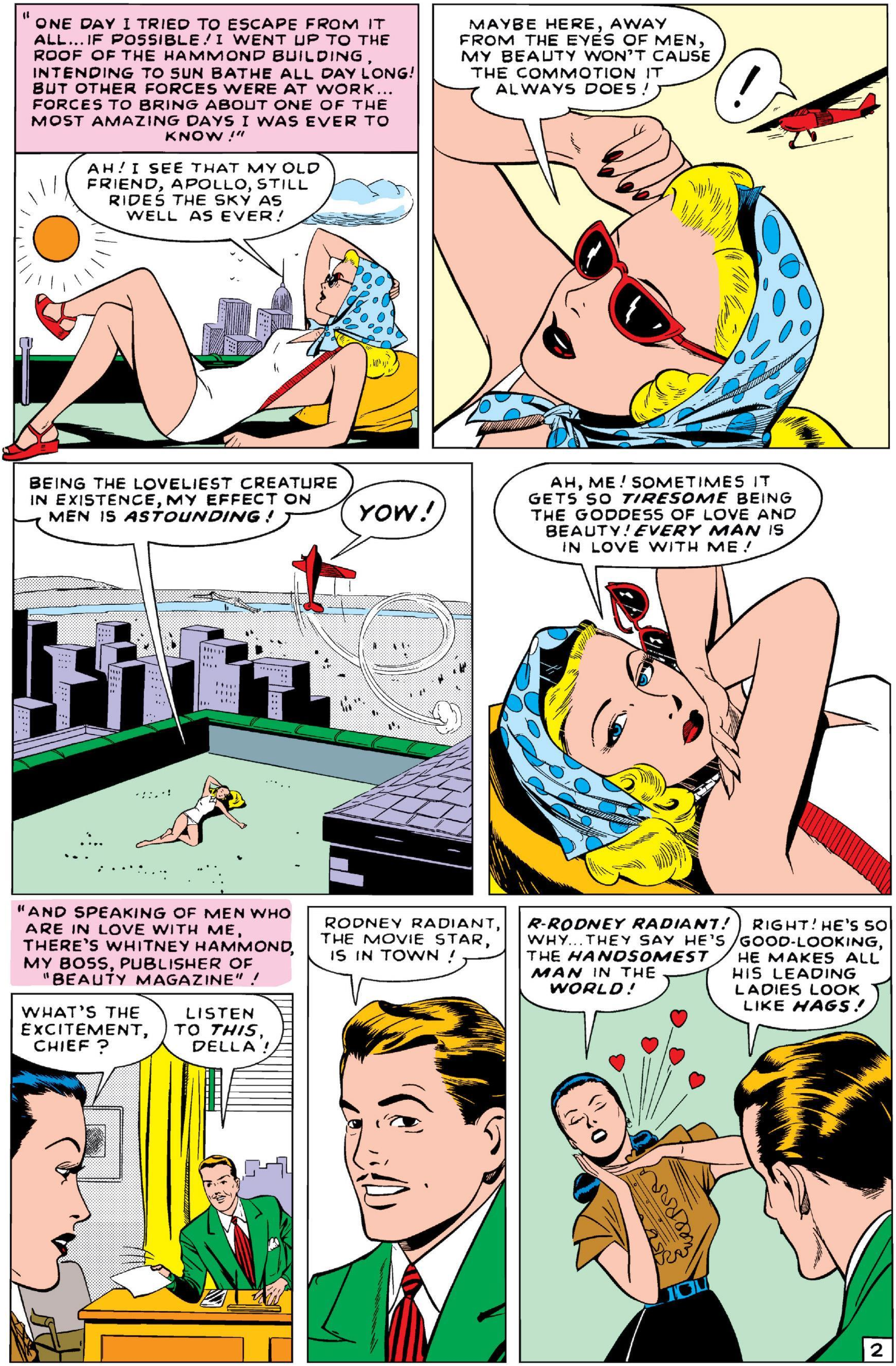
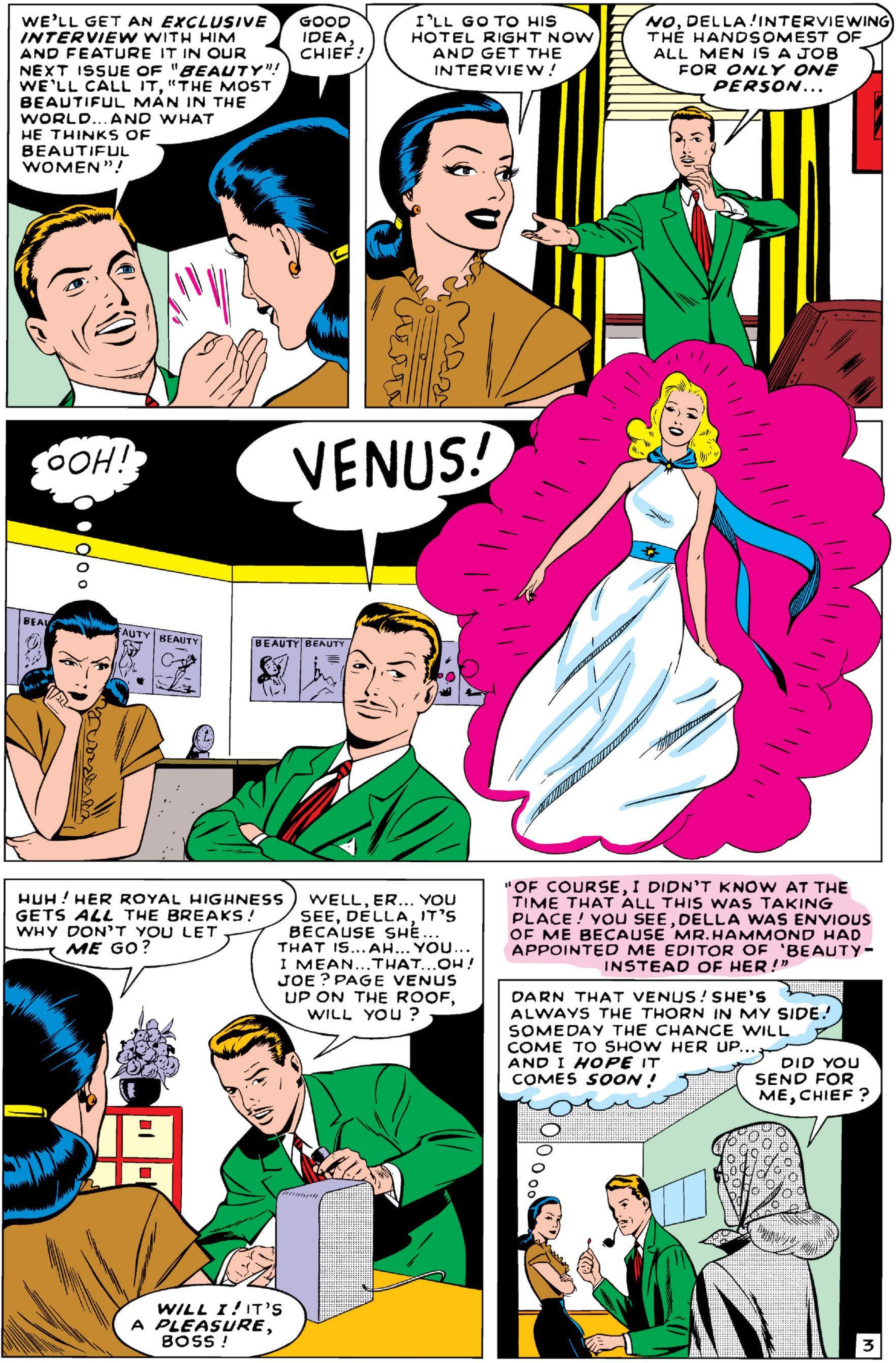
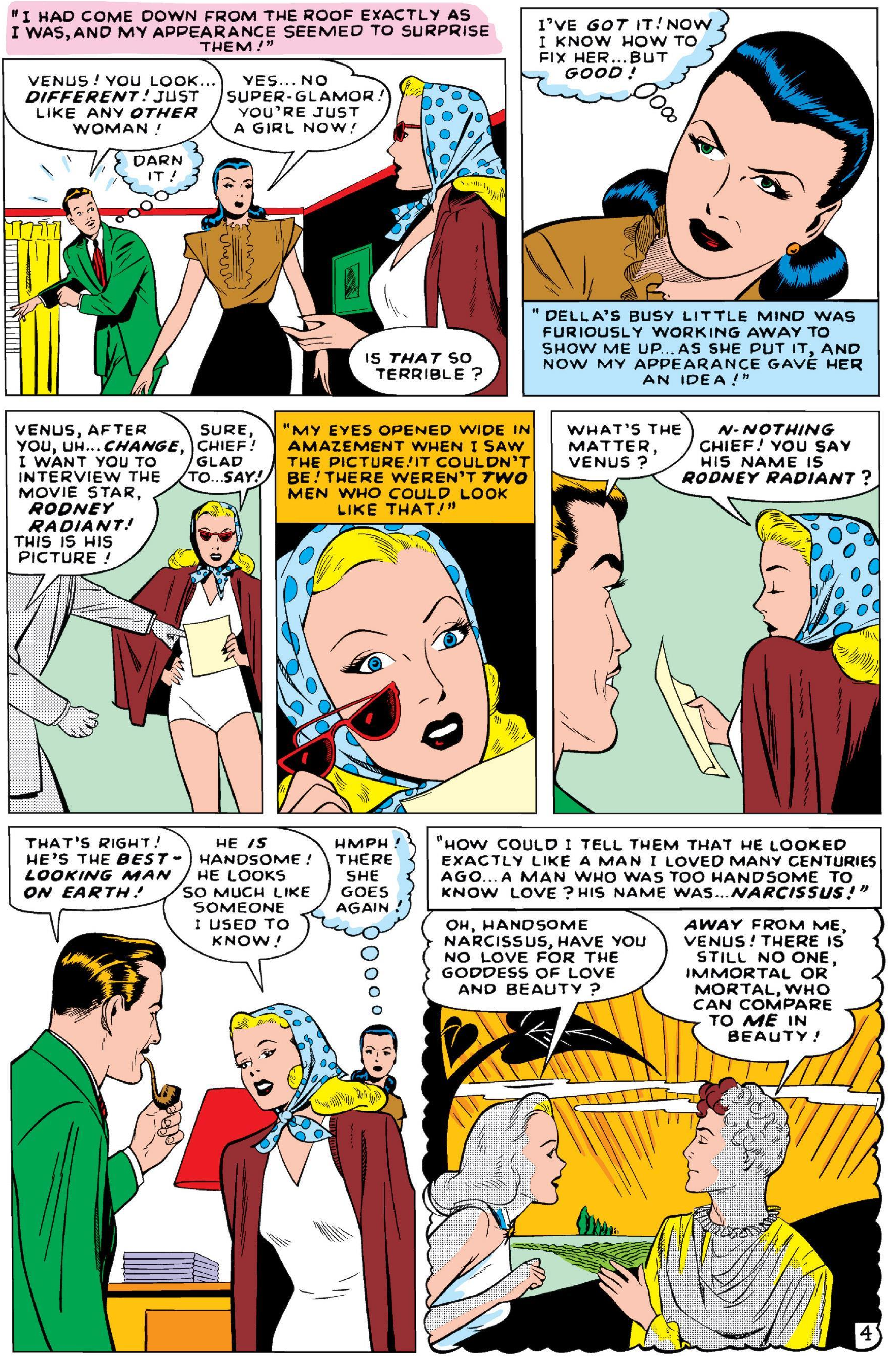
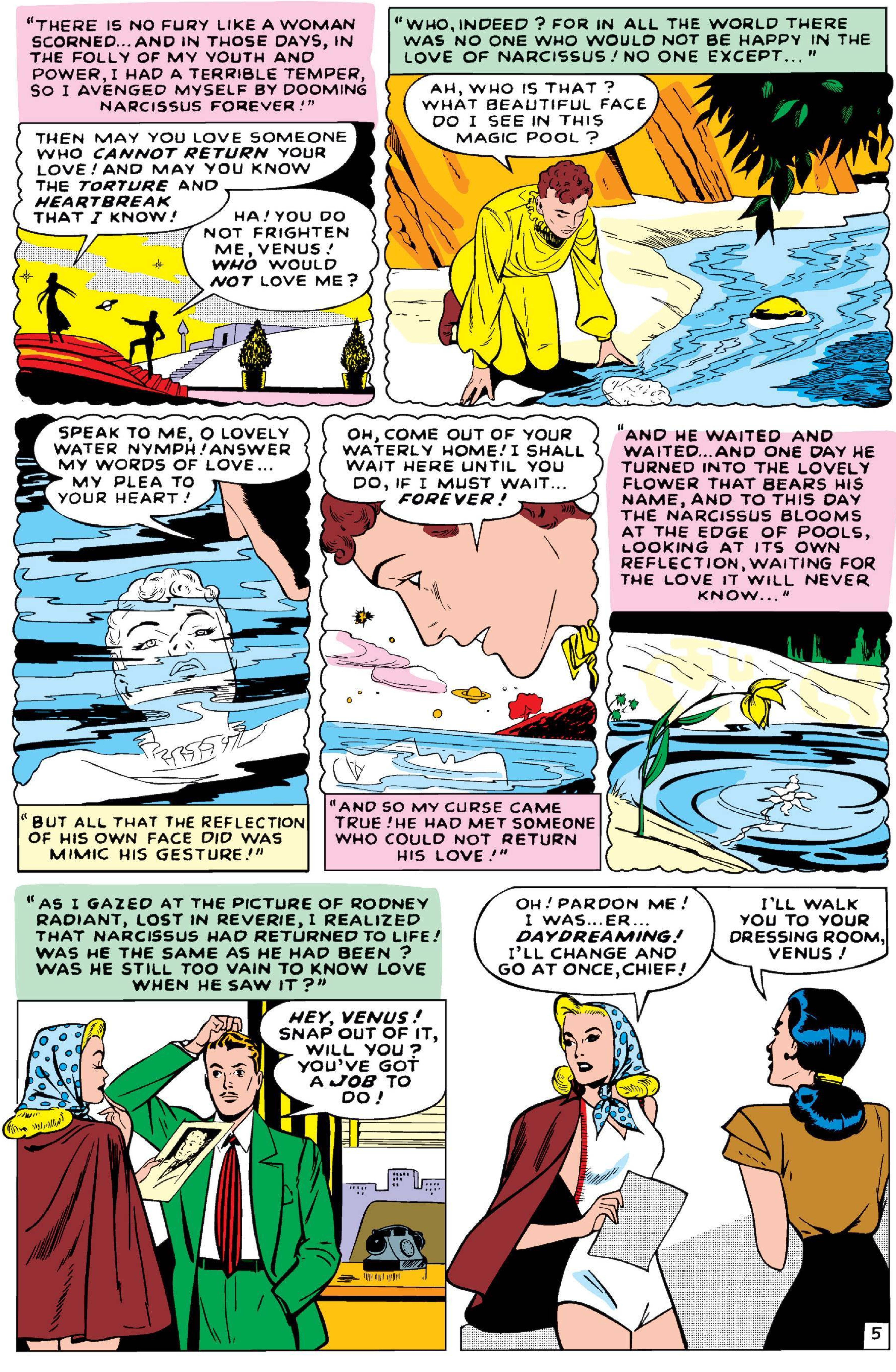
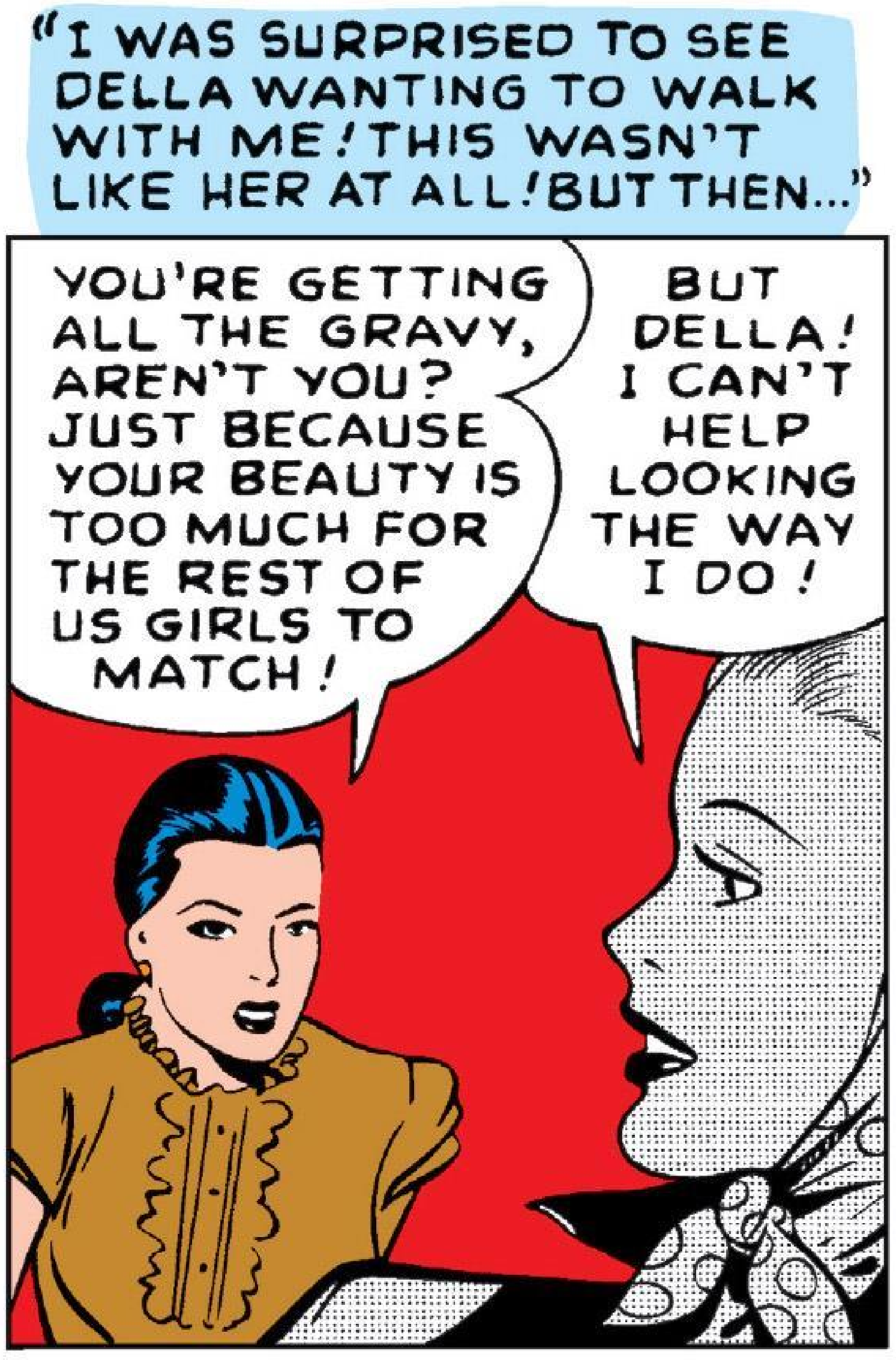
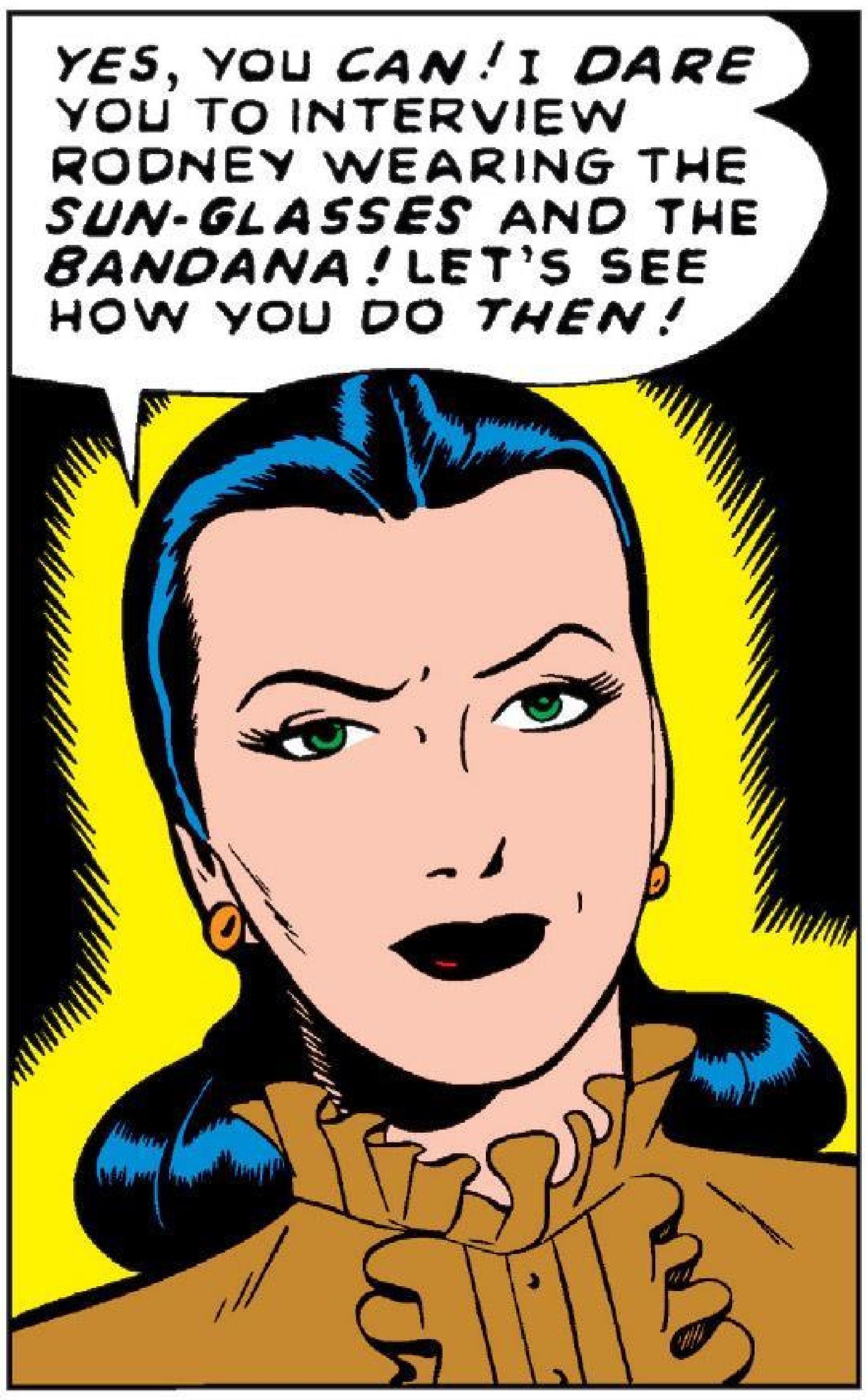

"ONE DAY I TRIED TO ESCAPE FROM IT ALL... IF POSSIBLE! I WENT UP TO THE ROOF OF THE HAMMOND BUILDING, INTENDING TO SUN BATHE ALL DAY LONG! BUT OTHER FORCES WERE AT WORK... FORCES TO BRING ABOUT ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING DAYS I WAS EVER TO KNOW!"
AH! I SEE THAT MY OLD FRIEND, APOLLO, STILL RIDES THE SKY AS WELL AS EVER!
MAYBE HERE, AWAY FROM THE EYES OF MEN, MY BEAUTY WON'T CAUSE THE COMMOTION IT ALWAYS DOES!
!
BEING THE LOVELIEST CREATURE IN EXISTENCE, MY EFFECT ON MEN IS *ASTOUNDING*!
YOW!
AH, ME! SOMETIMES IT GETS SO *TIRESOME* BEING THE GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY! *EVERY MAN* IS IN LOVE WITH ME!
"AND SPEAKING OF MEN WHO ARE IN LOVE WITH ME, THERE'S WHITNEY HAMMOND, MY BOSS, PUBLISHER OF "BEAUTY MAGAZINE"!
WHAT'S THE EXCITEMENT, CHIEF?
LISTEN TO *THIS*, DELLA!
RODNEY RADIANT, THE MOVIE STAR, IS IN TOWN!
R-RODNEY RADIANT! WHY... THEY SAY HE'S THE *HANDSOMEST MAN* IN THE *WORLD*!
RIGHT! HE'S SO GOOD-LOOKING, HE MAKES ALL HIS LEADING LADIES LOOK LIKE *HAGS*!

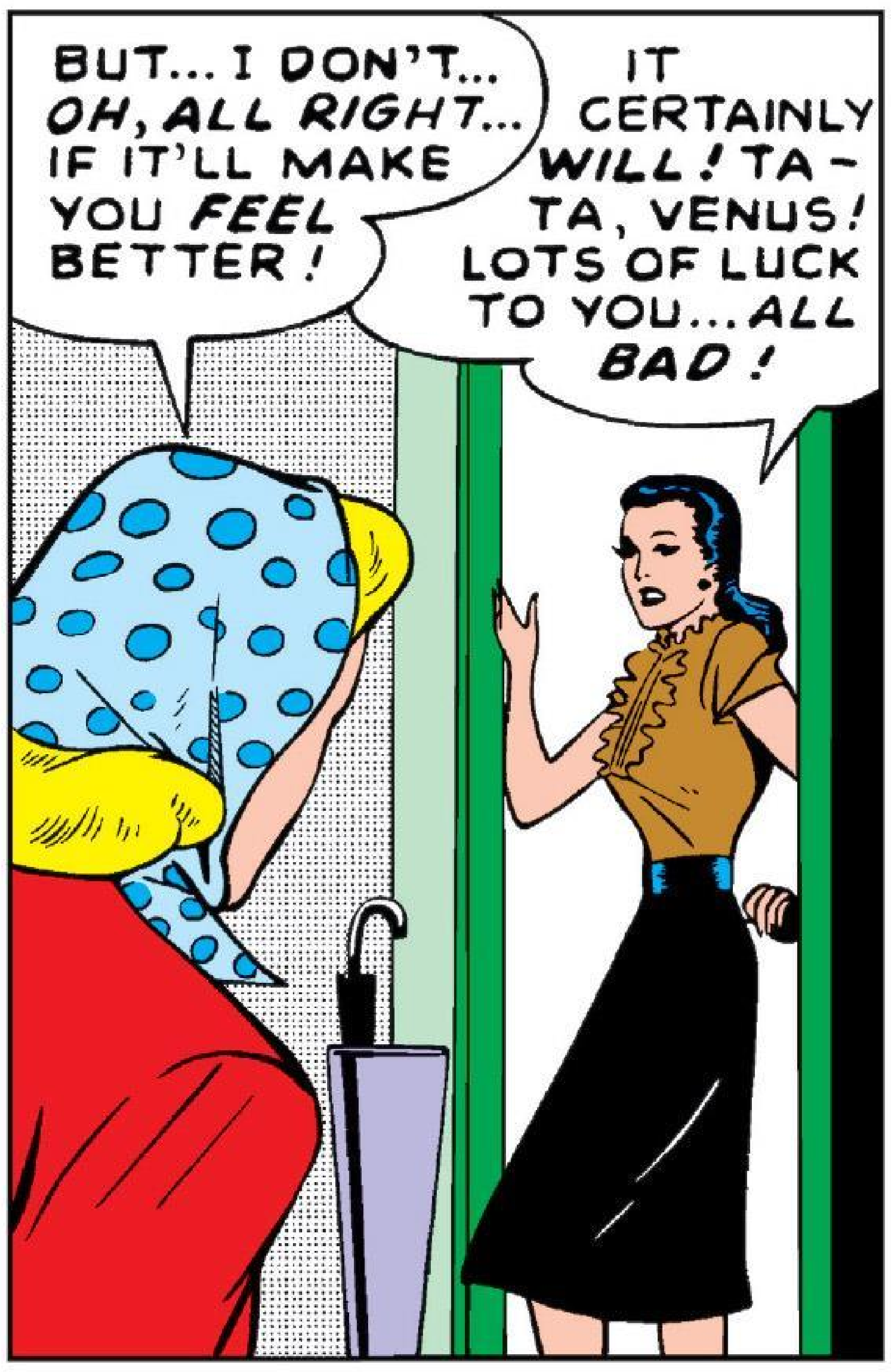

WE'LL GET AN *EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW* WITH HIM AND FEATURE IT IN OUR NEXT ISSUE OF "*BEAUTY*"! WE'LL CALL IT, "THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MAN IN THE WORLD... AND WHAT HE THINKS OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN"!
GOOD IDEA, CHIEF!
I'LL GO TO HIS HOTEL RIGHT NOW AND GET THE INTERVIEW!
NO, DELLA! INTERVIEWING THE HANDSOMEST OF ALL MEN IS A JOB FOR *ONLY ONE PERSON*...
OOH!
VENUS!
BEAUTY
BEAUTY
BEAUTY
BEAUTY
HUH! HER ROYAL HIGHNESS GETS *ALL* THE BREAKS! WHY DON'T YOU LET *ME* GO?
WELL, ER... YOU SEE, DELLA, IT'S BECAUSE SHE... THAT IS... AH... YOU... I MEAN... THAT... OH! JOE? PAGE VENUS UP ON THE ROOF, WILL YOU?
WILL I! IT'S A *PLEASURE*, BOSS!
"OF COURSE, I DIDN'T KNOW AT THE TIME THAT ALL THIS WAS TAKING PLACE! YOU SEE, DELLA WAS ENVIOUS OF ME BECAUSE MR. HAMMOND HAD APPOINTED ME EDITOR OF 'BEAUTY-INSTEAD OF HER!"
DARN THAT VENUS! SHE'S ALWAYS THE THORN IN MY SIDE! SOMEDAY THE CHANCE WILL COME TO SHOW HER UP... AND I *HOPE* IT COMES *SOON*!
DID YOU SEND FOR ME, CHIEF?

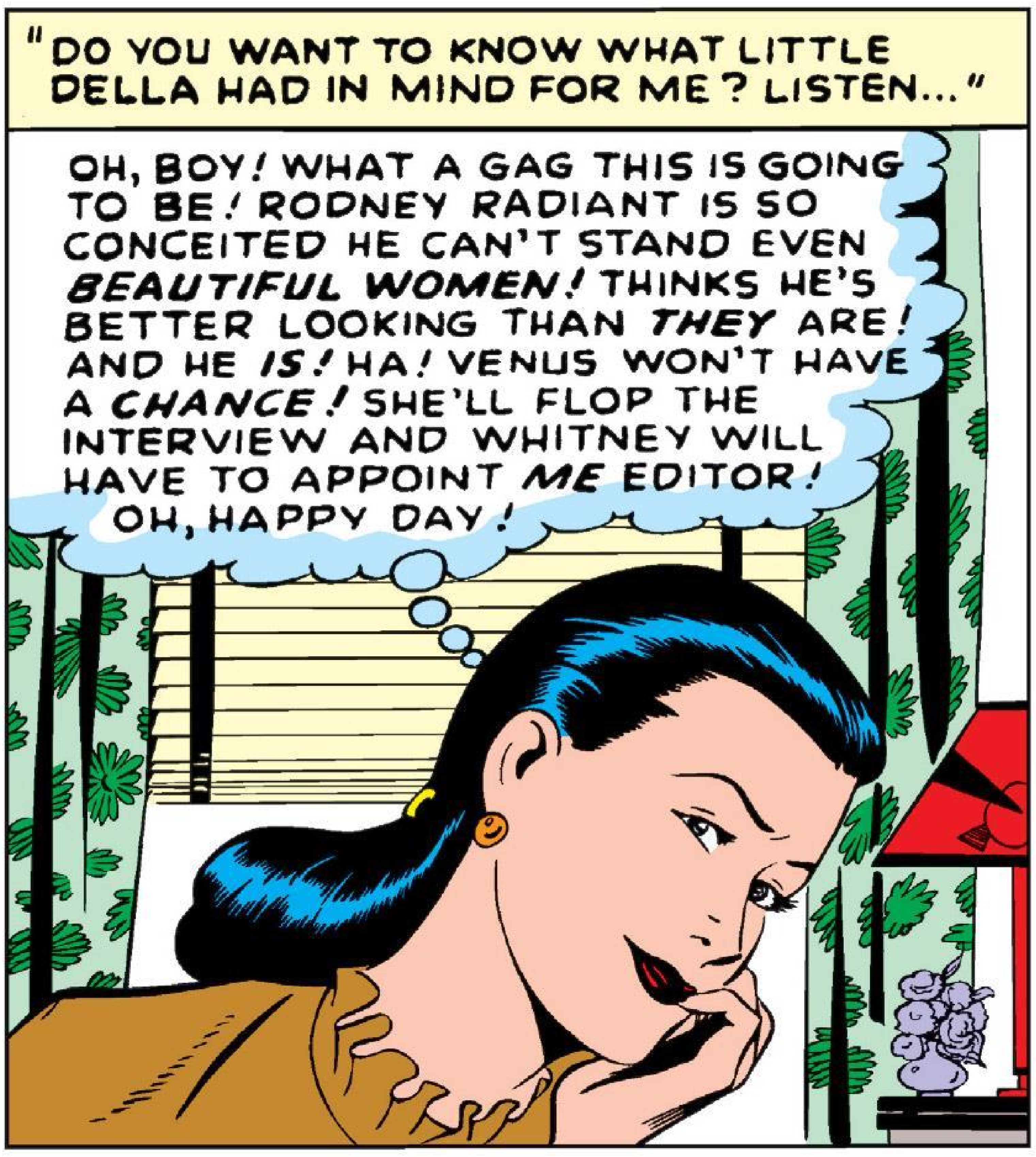

"I HAD COME DOWN FROM THE ROOF EXACTLY AS I WAS, AND MY APPEARANCE SEEMED TO SURPRISE THEM!"
VENUS! YOU LOOK... *DIFFERENT*! JUST LIKE ANY *OTHER* WOMAN!
YES... NO SUPER-GLAMOR! YOU'RE JUST A GIRL NOW!
DARN IT!
IS *THAT* SO TERRIBLE?
I'VE *GOT* IT! NOW I KNOW HOW TO FIX HER... BUT *GOOD*!
" DELLA'S BUSY LITTLE MIND WAS FURIOUSLY WORKING AWAY TO SHOW ME UP... AS SHE PUT IT, AND NOW MY APPEARANCE GAVE HER AN IDEA!"
VENUS, AFTER YOU, UH... *CHANGE*, I WANT YOU TO INTERVIEW THE MOVIE STAR, *RODNEY RADIANT*! THIS IS HIS PICTURE!
SURE, CHIEF! GLAD TO... *SAY!*
"MY EYES OPENED WIDE IN AMAZEMENT WHEN I SAW THE PICTURE! IT COULDN'T BE! THERE WEREN'T *TWO* MEN WHO COULD LOOK LIKE THAT!"
WHAT'S THE MATTER, VENUS?
N-NOTHING CHIEF! YOU SAY HIS NAME IS *RODNEY RADIANT*?
THAT'S RIGHT! HE'S THE *BEST-LOOKING MAN ON EARTH*!
HE *IS* HANDSOME! HE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE SOMEONE I USED TO KNOW!
HMPH! THERE SHE GOES AGAIN!
"HOW COULD I TELL THEM THAT HE LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE A MAN I LOVED MANY CENTURIES AGO... A MAN WHO WAS TOO HANDSOME TO KNOW LOVE? HIS NAME WAS... *NARCISSUS*!"
OH, HANDSOME NARCISSUS, HAVE YOU NO LOVE FOR THE GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY?
AWAY FROM ME, VENUS! THERE IS STILL NO ONE, IMMORTAL OR MORTAL, WHO CAN COMPARE TO *ME* IN BEAUTY!

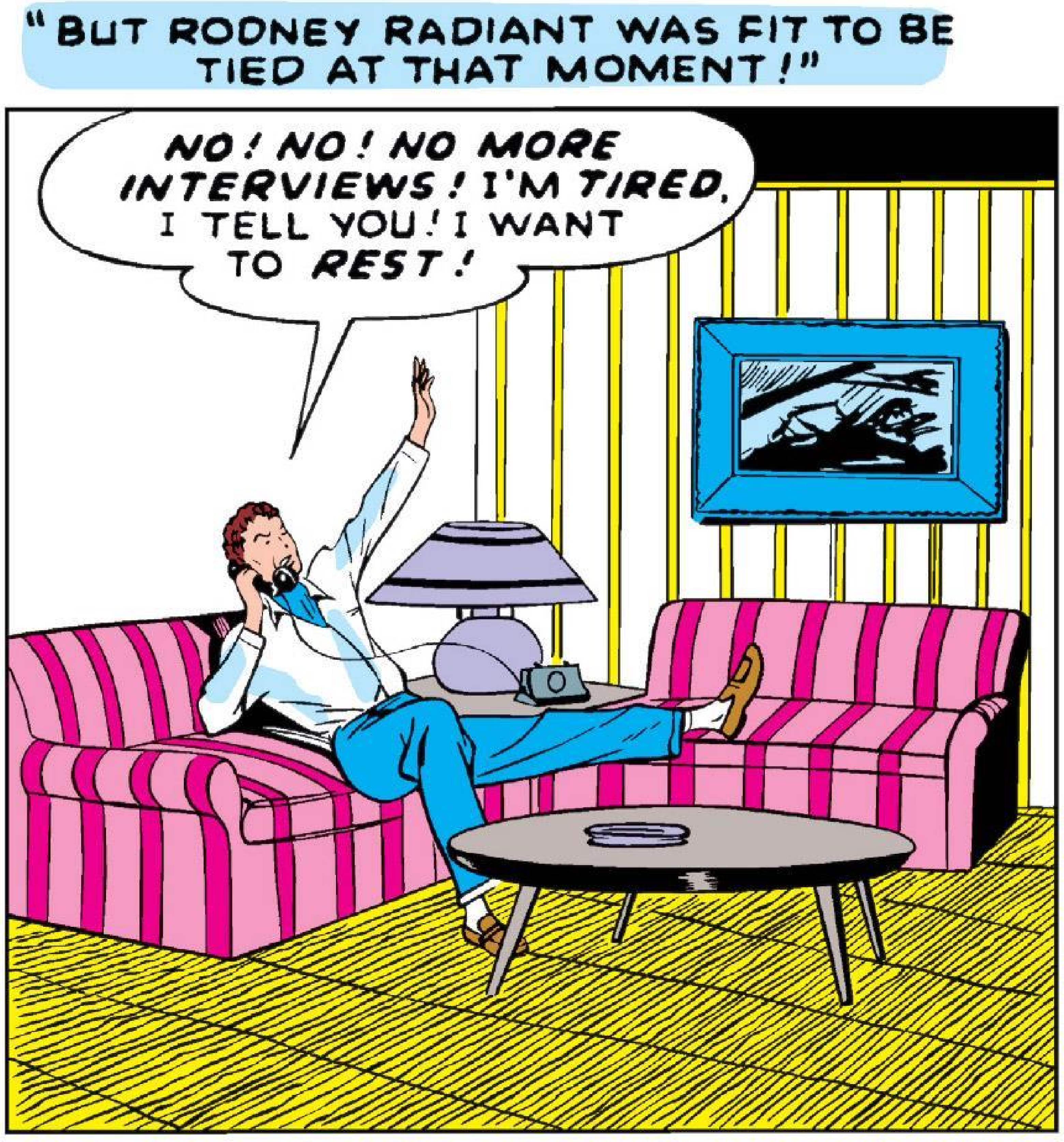

"THERE IS NO FURY LIKE A WOMAN SCORNED... AND IN THOSE DAYS, IN THE FOLLY OF MY YOUTH AND POWER, I HAD A TERRIBLE TEMPER, SO I AVENGED MYSELF BY DOOMING NARCISSUS FOREVER!"
THEN MAY YOU LOVE SOMEONE WHO *CANNOT RETURN* YOUR LOVE! AND MAY YOU KNOW THE *TORTURE* AND *HEARTBREAK* THAT *I* KNOW!
HA! YOU DO NOT FRIGHTEN ME, VENUS! *WHO* WOULD *NOT* LOVE ME?
"WHO, INDEED? FOR IN ALL THE WORLD THERE WAS NO ONE WHO WOULD NOT BE HAPPY IN THE LOVE OF NARCISSUS! NO ONE EXCEPT..."
AH, WHO IS THAT? WHAT BEAUTIFUL FACE DO I SEE IN THIS MAGIC POOL?
SPEAK TO ME, O LOVELY WATER NYMPH! ANSWER MY WORDS OF LOVE... MY PLEA TO YOUR HEART!
"BUT ALL THAT THE REFLECTION OF HIS OWN FACE *DID* WAS MIMIC HIS GESTURE!"
OH, COME OUT OF YOUR WATERLY HOME! I SHALL WAIT HERE UNTIL YOU DO, IF I MUST WAIT... *FOREVER!*
"AND SO MY CURSE CAME TRUE! HE HAD MET SOMEONE WHO COULD NOT RETURN HIS LOVE!"
"AND HE WAITED AND WAITED... AND ONE DAY HE TURNED INTO THE LOVELY FLOWER THAT BEARS HIS NAME, AND TO THIS DAY THE NARCISSUS BLOOMS AT THE EDGE OF POOLS, LOOKING AT ITS OWN REFLECTION, WAITING FOR THE LOVE IT WILL NEVER KNOW..."
"AS I *GAZED* AT THE PICTURE OF RODNEY RADIANT, LOST IN REVERIE, I REALIZED THAT NARCISSUS HAD RETURNED TO LIFE! WAS HE THE SAME AS HE HAD BEEN? WAS HE STILL TOO VAIN TO KNOW LOVE WHEN HE SAW IT?"
HEY, VENUS! SNAP OUT OF IT, WILL YOU? YOU'VE GOT A *JOB* TO DO!
OH! PARDON ME! I WAS... ER... *DAYDREAMING!* I'LL CHANGE AND GO AT ONCE, CHIEF!
I'LL WALK YOU TO YOUR DRESSING ROOM, VENUS!

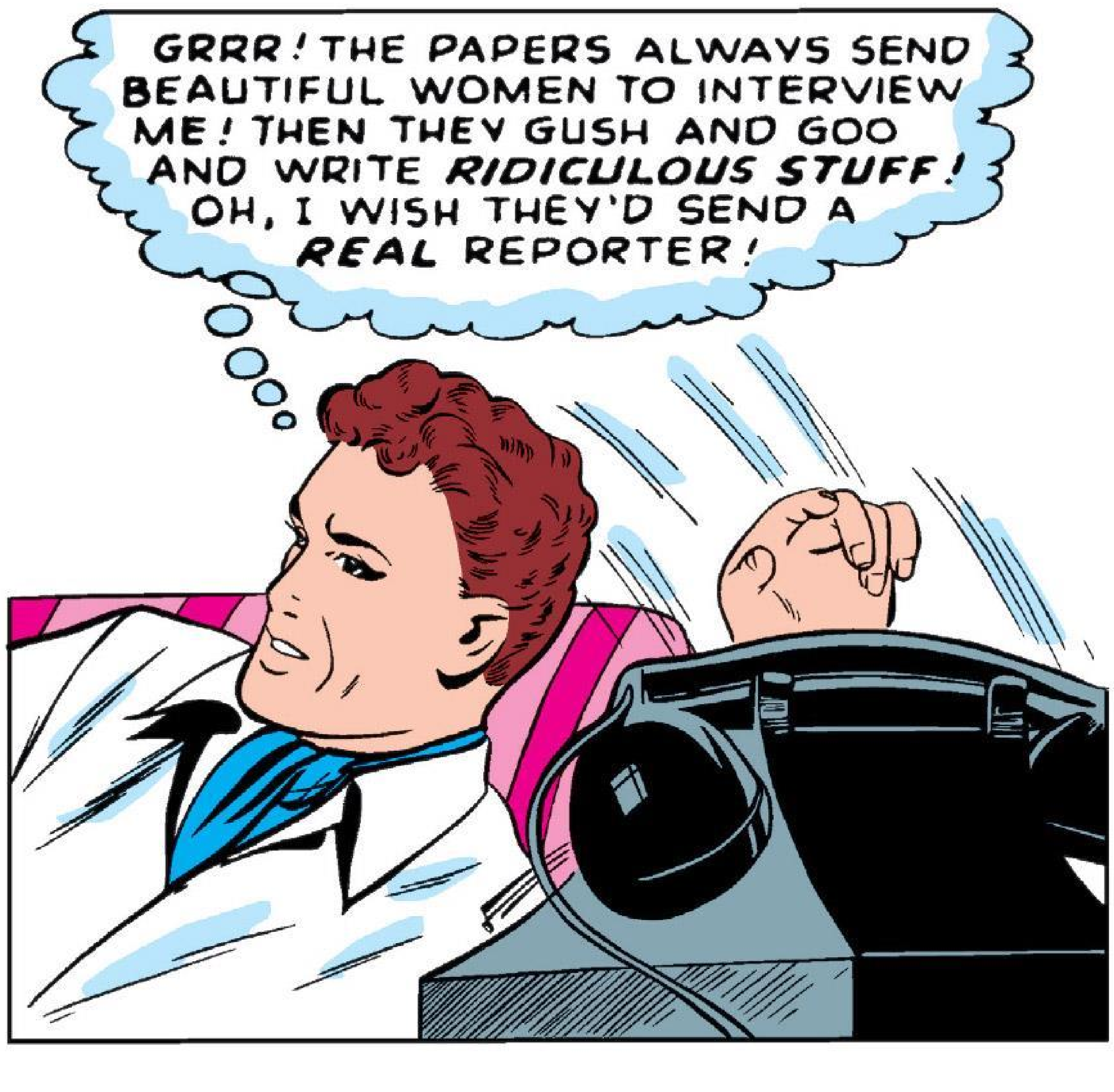

"I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE DELLA WANTING TO WALK WITH ME! THIS WASN'T LIKE HER AT ALL! BUT THEN..."
YOU'RE GETTING ALL THE GRAVY, AREN'T YOU? JUST BECAUSE YOUR BEAUTY IS TOO MUCH FOR THE REST OF US GIRLS TO MATCH!
BUT DELLA! I CAN'T HELP LOOKING THE WAY I DO!

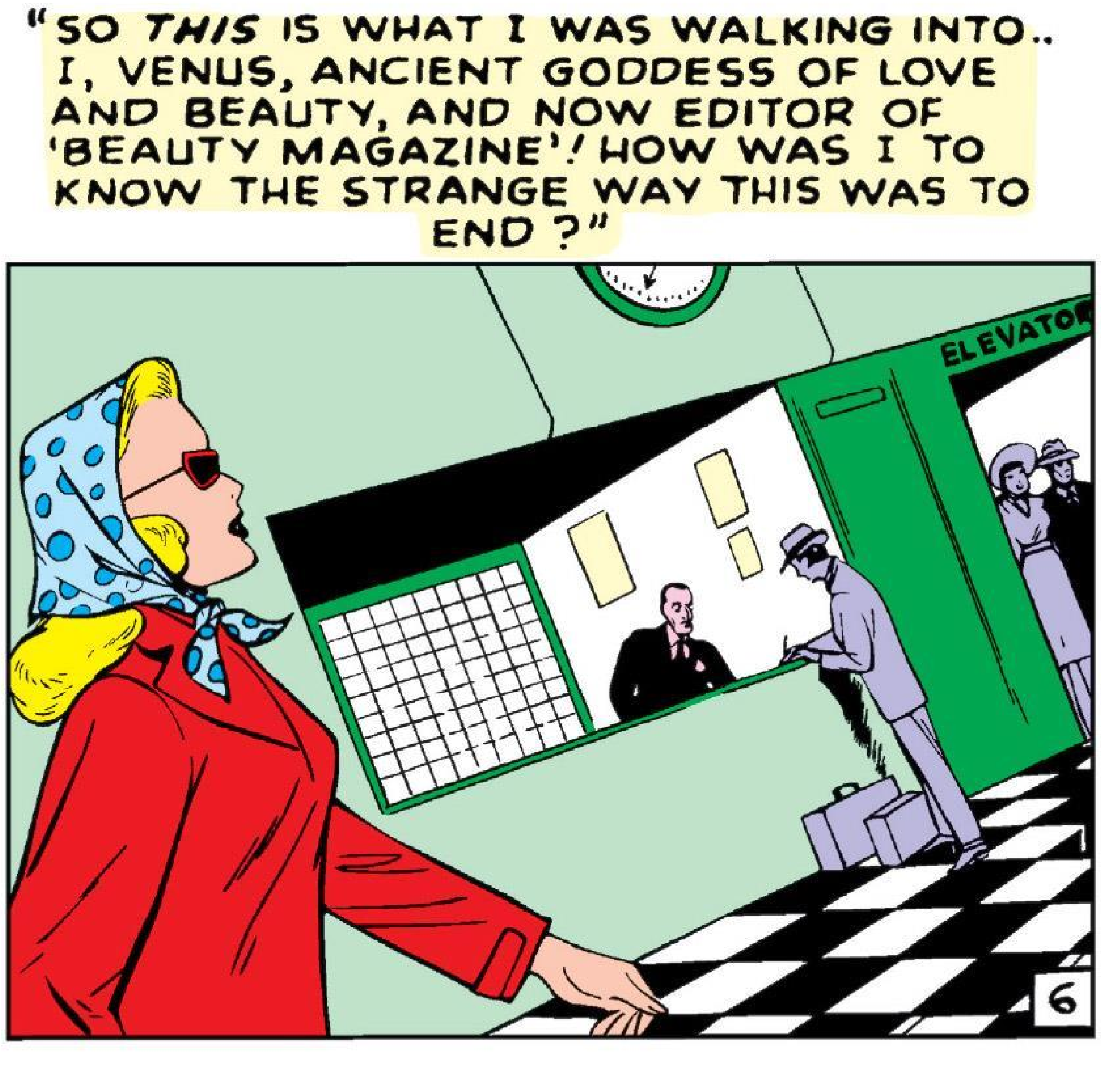

YES, YOU *CAN*! I *DARE* YOU TO INTERVIEW RODNEY WEARING THE ***SUN-GLASSES*** AND THE ***BANDANA***! LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO *THEN*!

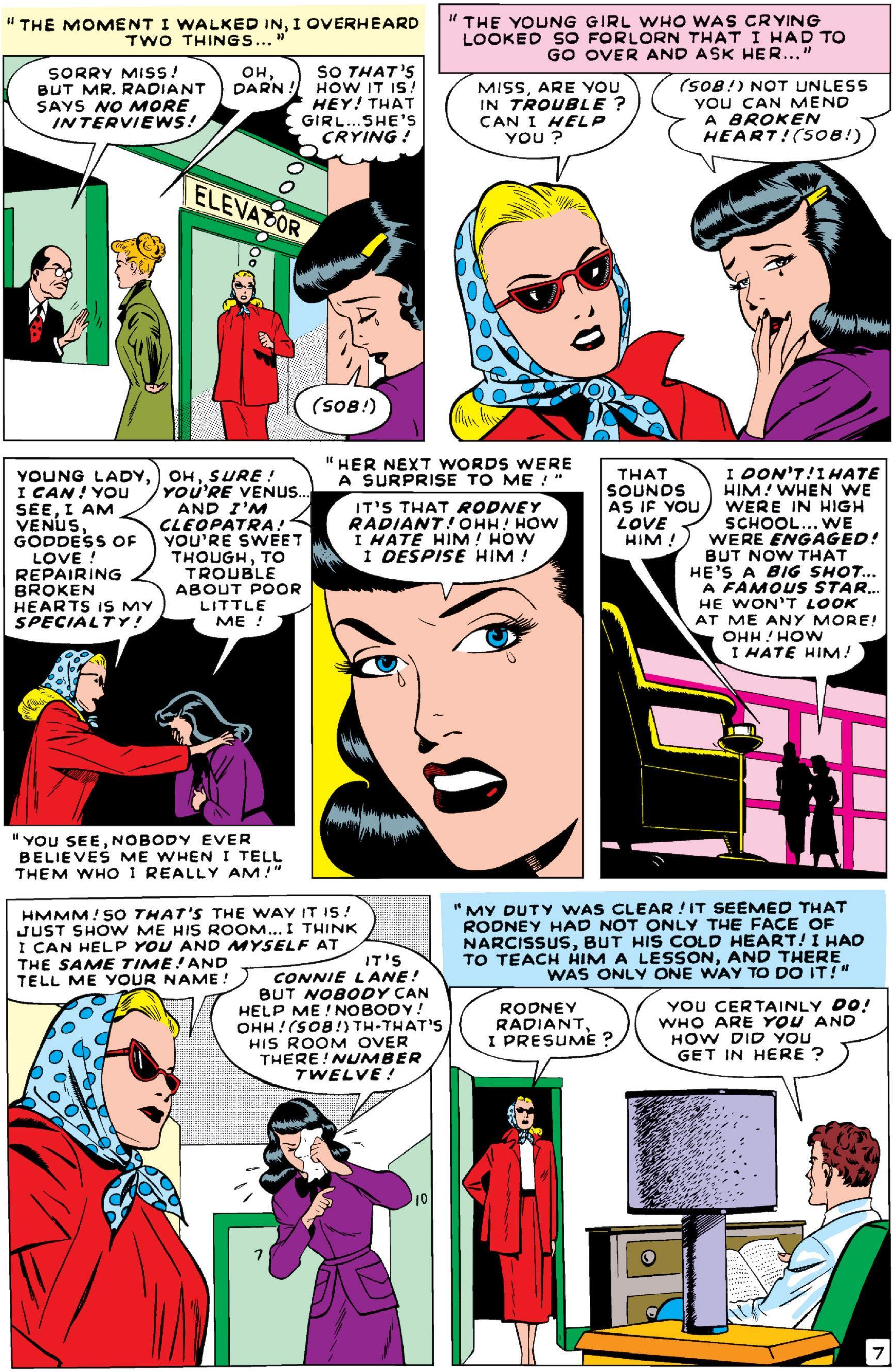

BUT... I DON'T... ***OH, ALL RIGHT***... IF IT'LL MAKE YOU *FEEL* BETTER!
IT CERTAINLY ***WILL***! TA-TA, VENUS! LOTS OF LUCK TO YOU... ***ALL BAD***!

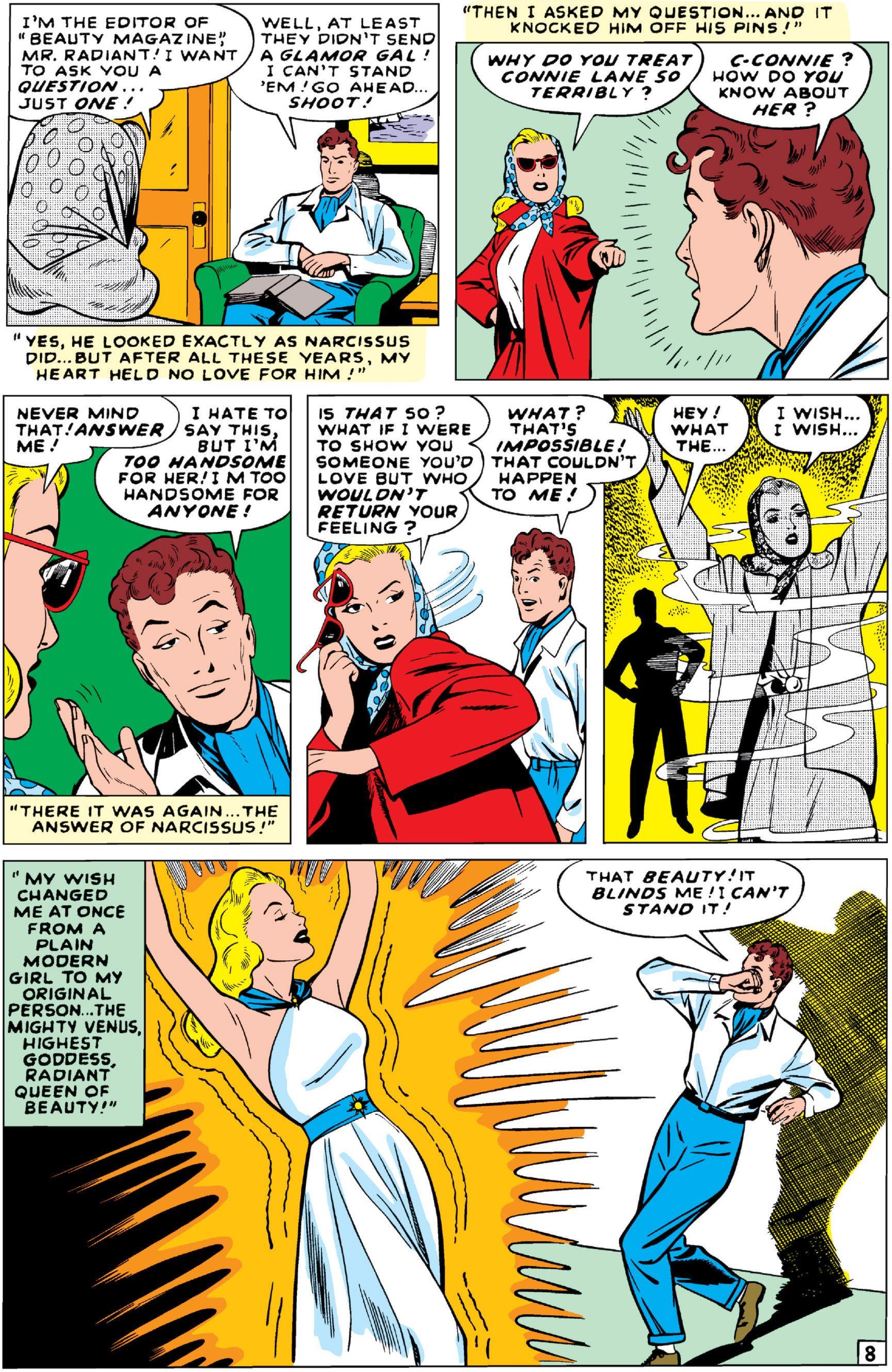

"DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT LITTLE DELLA HAD IN MIND FOR ME? LISTEN..."
OH, BOY! WHAT A GAG THIS IS GOING TO BE! RODNEY RADIANT IS SO CONCEITED HE CAN'T STAND EVEN ***BEAUTIFUL WOMEN***! THINKS HE'S BETTER LOOKING THAN ***THEY*** ARE! AND HE ***IS***! HA! VENUS WON'T HAVE A ***CHANCE***! SHE'LL FLOP THE INTERVIEW AND WHITNEY WILL HAVE TO APPOINT ***ME*** EDITOR! OH, HAPPY DAY!

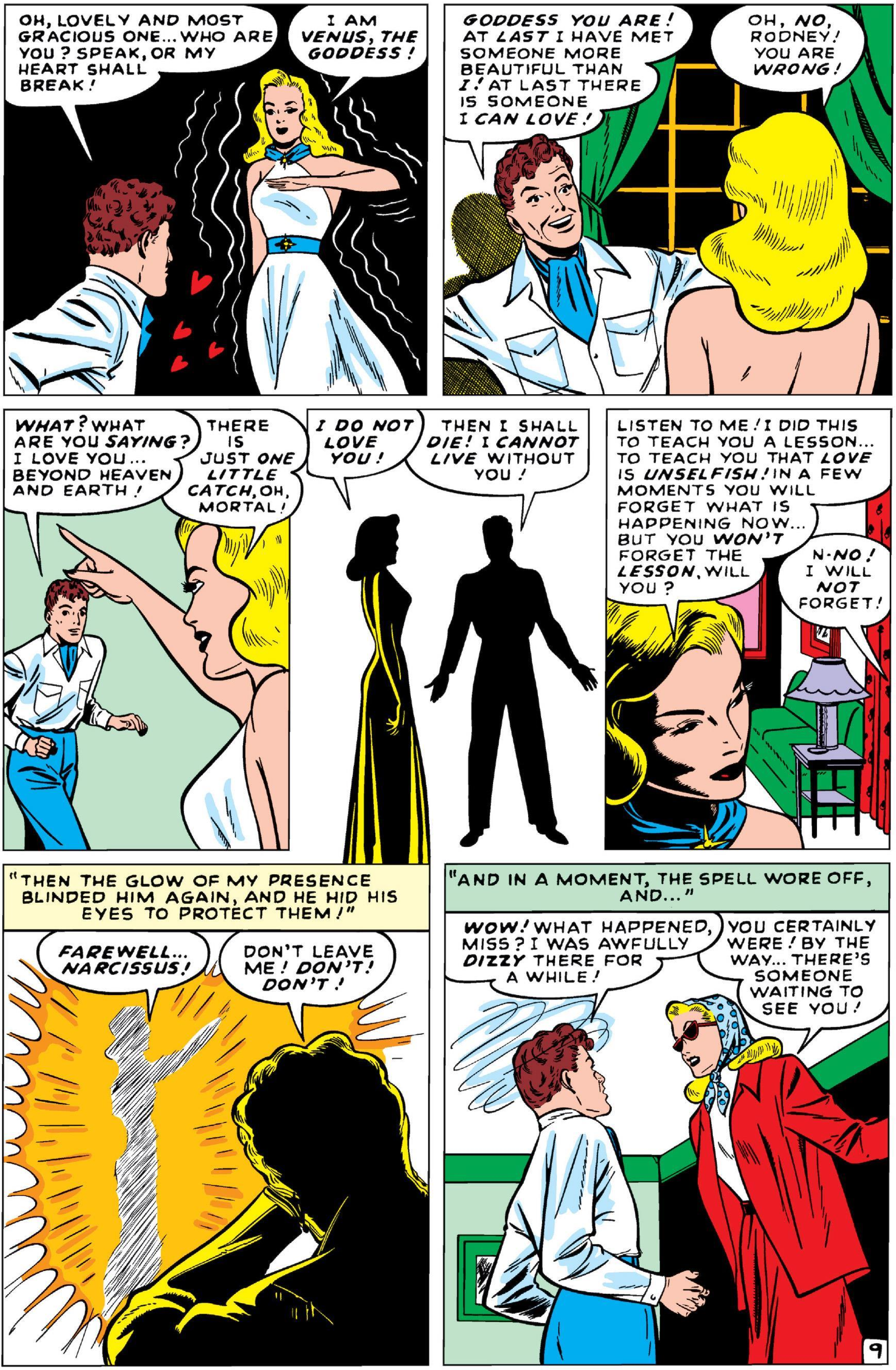

"BUT RODNEY RADIANT WAS FIT TO BE TIED AT THAT MOMENT!"
NO! NO! NO MORE INTERVIEWS! I'M ***TIRED***, I TELL YOU! I WANT TO ***REST***!

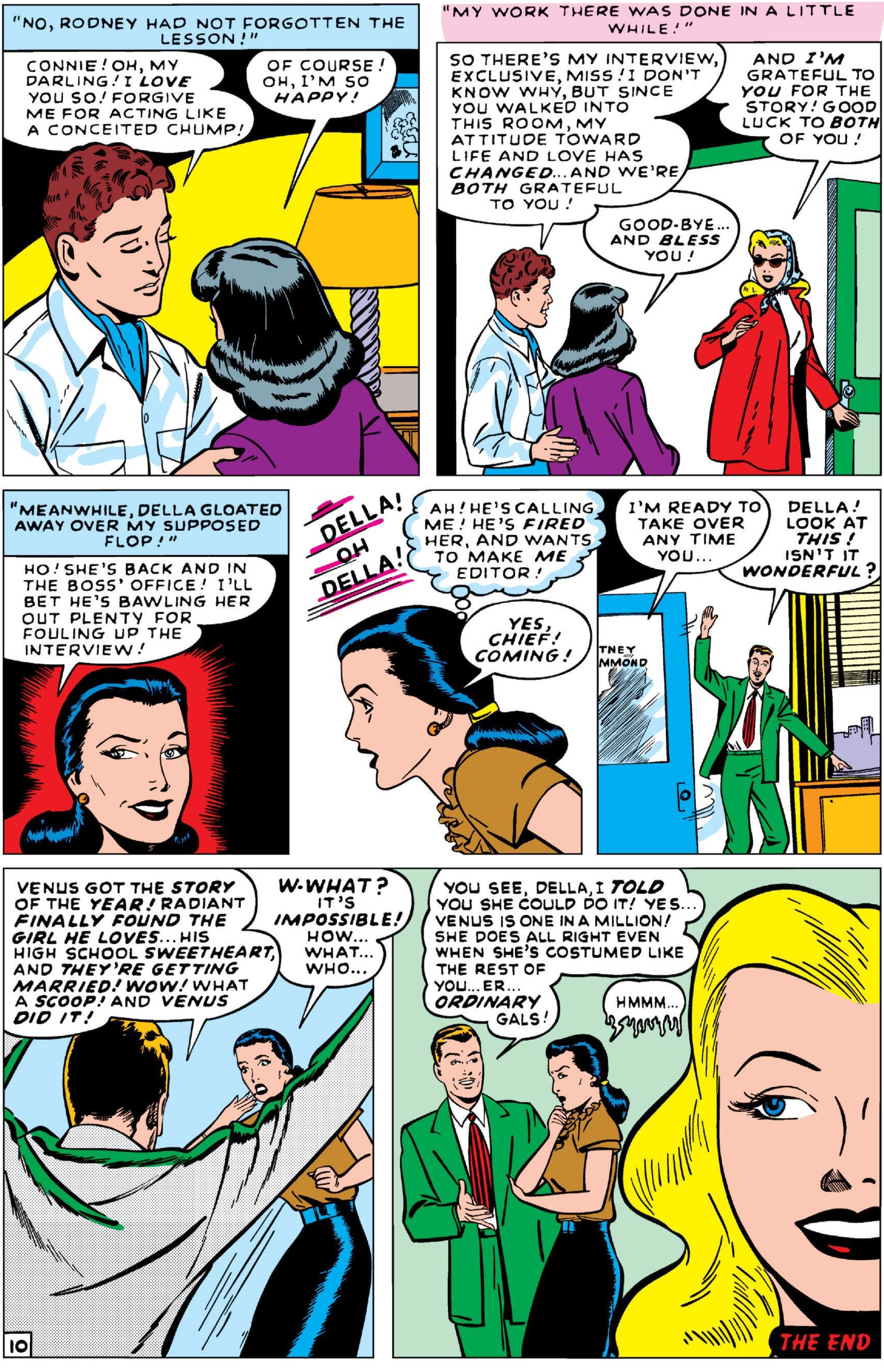

GRRR! THE PAPERS ALWAYS SEND BEAUTIFUL WOMEN TO INTERVIEW ME! THEN THEY GUSH AND GOO AND WRITE ***RIDICULOUS STUFF***! OH, I WISH THEY'D SEND A ***REAL*** REPORTER!


"SO *THIS* IS WHAT I WAS WALKING INTO.. I, VENUS, ANCIENT GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY, AND NOW EDITOR OF 'BEAUTY MAGAZINE'! HOW WAS I TO KNOW THE STRANGE WAY THIS WAS TO END?"
ELEVATOR

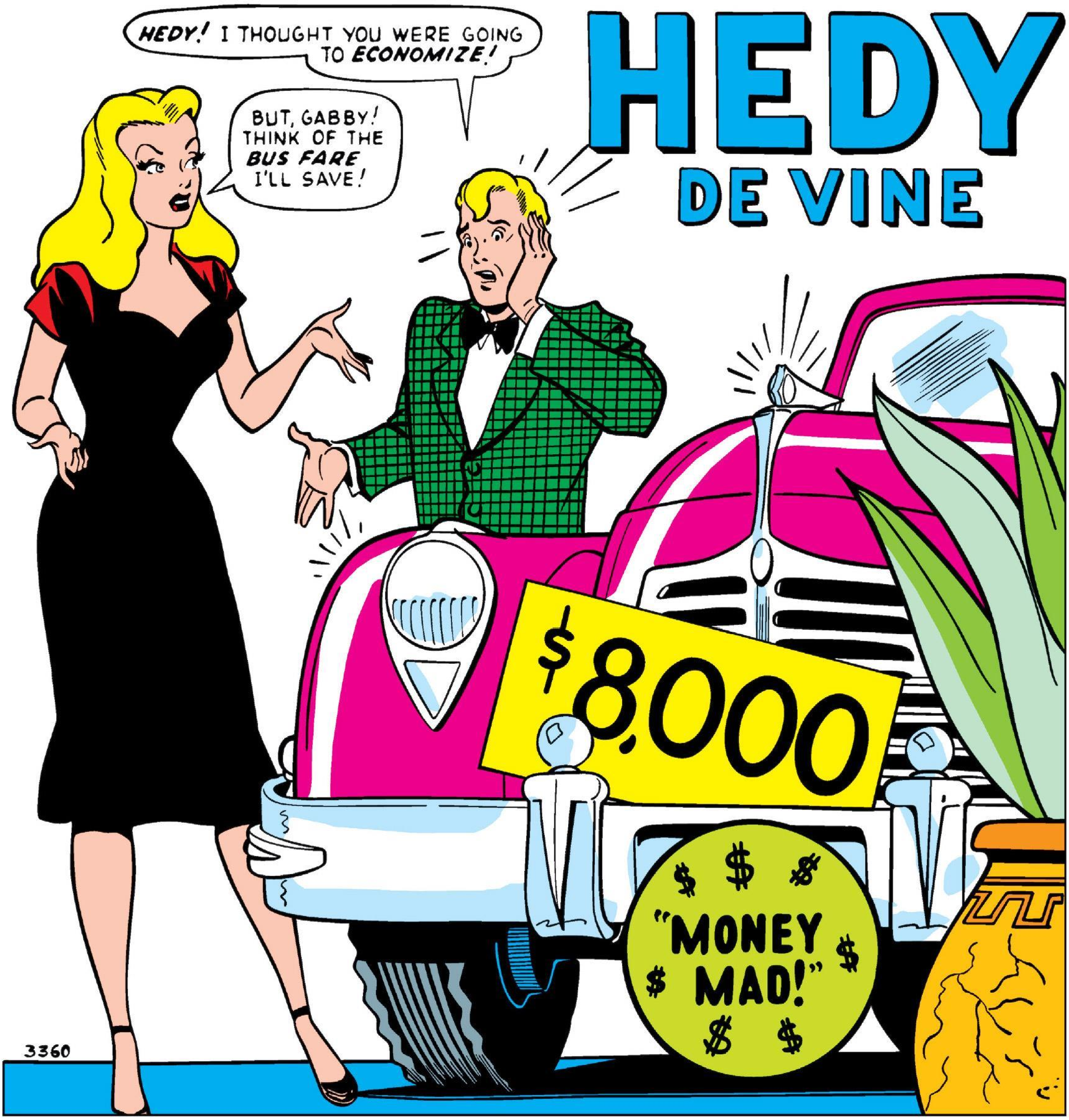

"THE MOMENT I WALKED IN, I OVERHEARD TWO THINGS..."
SORRY MISS! BUT MR. RADIANT SAYS *NO MORE INTERVIEWS!*
OH, DARN!
SO *THAT'S* HOW IT IS! *HEY!* THAT GIRL...SHE'S *CRYING!*
ELEVATOR
(SOB!)
"THE YOUNG GIRL WHO WAS CRYING LOOKED SO FORLORN THAT I HAD TO GO OVER AND ASK HER..."
MISS, ARE YOU IN *TROUBLE*? CAN I *HELP* YOU?
(SOB!) NOT UNLESS YOU CAN MEND A *BROKEN HEART!* (SOB!)
YOUNG LADY, I *CAN!* YOU SEE, I AM VENUS, GODDESS OF LOVE! REPAIRING BROKEN HEARTS IS MY *SPECIALTY!*
OH, *SURE!* *YOU'RE* VENUS... AND *I'M CLEOPATRA!* YOU'RE SWEET THOUGH, TO TROUBLE ABOUT POOR LITTLE ME!
"YOU SEE, NOBODY EVER BELIEVES ME WHEN I TELL THEM WHO I REALLY AM!"
"HER NEXT WORDS WERE A SURPRISE TO ME!"
IT'S THAT *RODNEY RADIANT!* OHH! HOW I *HATE* HIM! HOW I *DESPISE* HIM!
THAT SOUNDS AS IF YOU *LOVE* HIM!
I *DON'T!* I *HATE* HIM! WHEN WE WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL...WE WERE *ENGAGED!* BUT NOW THAT HE'S A *BIG SHOT*... A *FAMOUS STAR*... HE WON'T *LOOK* AT ME ANY MORE! OHH! HOW I *HATE* HIM!
HMMM! SO *THAT'S* THE WAY IT IS! JUST SHOW ME HIS ROOM... I THINK I CAN HELP *YOU* AND *MYSELF* AT THE *SAME TIME!* AND TELL ME YOUR NAME!
IT'S *CONNIE LANE!* BUT *NOBODY* CAN HELP ME! NOBODY! OHH! (SOB!) TH-THAT'S HIS ROOM OVER THERE! *NUMBER TWELVE!*
10
7
"MY DUTY WAS CLEAR! IT SEEMED THAT RODNEY HAD NOT ONLY THE FACE OF NARCISSUS, BUT HIS COLD HEART! I HAD TO TEACH HIM A LESSON, AND THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO DO IT!"
RODNEY RADIANT, I PRESUME?
YOU CERTAINLY *DO!* WHO ARE *YOU* AND HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?

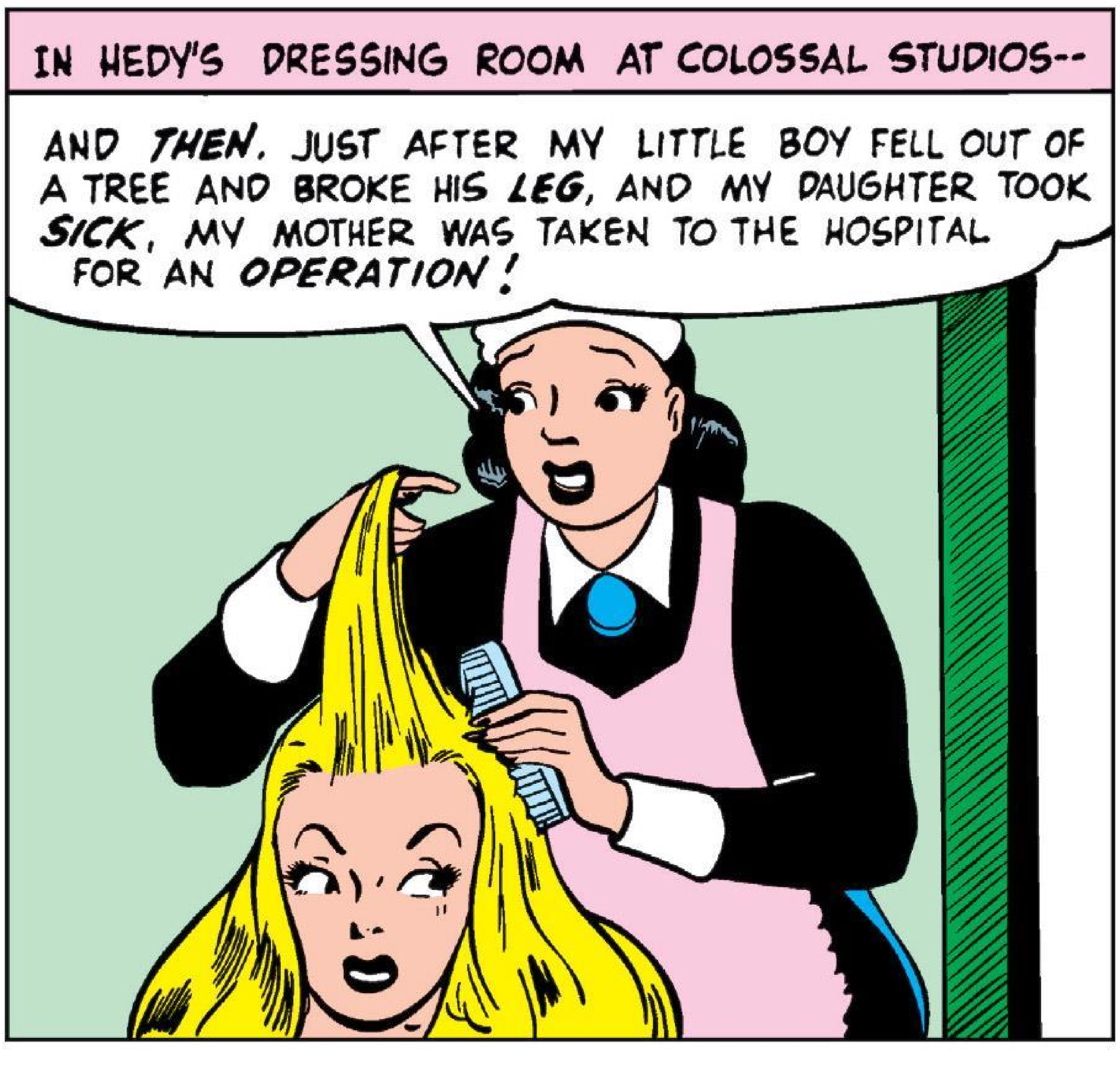

I'M THE EDITOR OF "BEAUTY MAGAZINE", MR. RADIANT! I WANT TO ASK YOU A *QUESTION*... JUST *ONE*!
WELL, AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T SEND A *GLAMOR GAL*! I CAN'T STAND 'EM! GO AHEAD... *SHOOT*!
"YES, HE LOOKED EXACTLY AS NARCISSUS DID... BUT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, MY HEART HELD NO LOVE FOR HIM!"
"THEN I ASKED MY QUESTION... AND IT KNOCKED HIM OFF HIS PINS!"
WHY DO YOU TREAT CONNIE LANE SO TERRIBLY?
C-CONNIE? HOW DO *YOU* KNOW ABOUT *HER*?
NEVER MIND THAT! *ANSWER* ME!
I HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT I'M *TOO HANDSOME* FOR HER! I M TOO HANDSOME FOR *ANYONE*!
"THERE IT WAS AGAIN... THE ANSWER OF NARCISSUS!"
IS *THAT* SO? WHAT IF I WERE TO SHOW YOU SOMEONE YOU'D LOVE BUT WHO *WOULDN'T RETURN* YOUR FEELING?
WHAT? THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!* THAT COULDN'T HAPPEN TO *ME*!
HEY! WHAT THE...
I WISH... I WISH...
"MY WISH CHANGED ME AT ONCE FROM A PLAIN MODERN GIRL TO MY ORIGINAL PERSON... THE MIGHTY VENUS, HIGHEST GODDESS, RADIANT QUEEN OF BEAUTY!"
THAT *BEAUTY!* IT *BLINDS* ME! I *CAN'T STAND* IT!

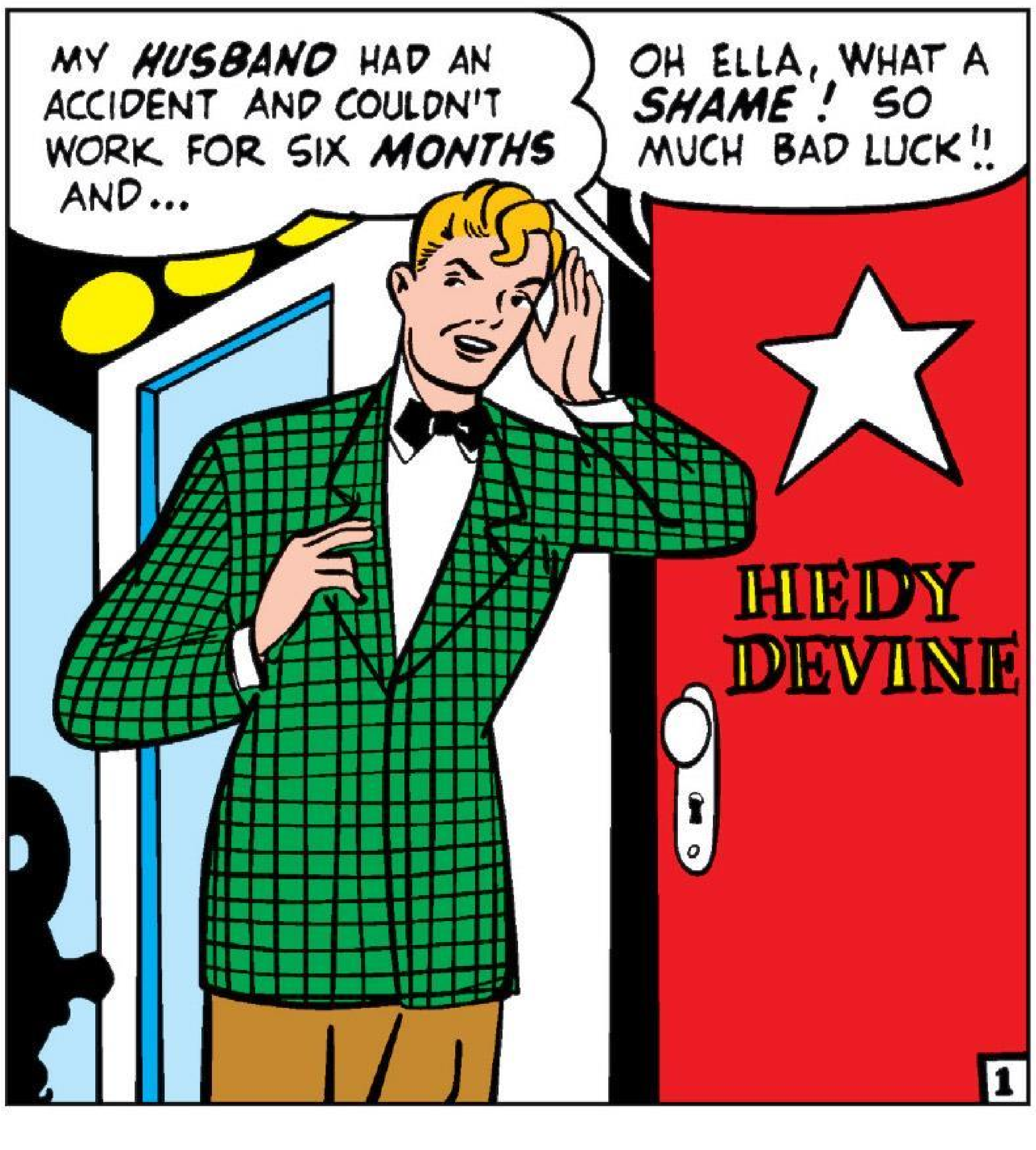

OH, LOVELY AND MOST GRACIOUS ONE... WHO ARE YOU? SPEAK, OR MY HEART SHALL BREAK!
I AM VENUS, THE GODDESS!
GODDESS YOU ARE! AT LAST I HAVE MET SOMEONE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I! AT LAST THERE IS SOMEONE I CAN LOVE!
OH, NO, RODNEY! YOU ARE WRONG!
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I LOVE YOU... BEYOND HEAVEN AND EARTH!
THERE IS JUST ONE LITTLE CATCH, OH, MORTAL!
I DO NOT LOVE YOU!
THEN I SHALL DIE! I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT YOU!
LISTEN TO ME! I DID THIS TO TEACH YOU A LESSON... TO TEACH YOU THAT LOVE IS UNSELFISH! IN A FEW MOMENTS YOU WILL FORGET WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW... BUT YOU WON'T FORGET THE LESSON, WILL YOU?
N-NO! I WILL NOT FORGET!
"THEN THE GLOW OF MY PRESENCE BLINDED HIM AGAIN, AND HE HID HIS EYES TO PROTECT THEM!"
FAREWELL... NARCISSUS!
DON'T LEAVE ME! DON'T! DON'T!
"AND IN A MOMENT, THE SPELL WORE OFF, AND..."
WOW! WHAT HAPPENED, MISS? I WAS AWFULLY DIZZY THERE FOR A WHILE!
YOU CERTAINLY WERE! BY THE WAY... THERE'S SOMEONE WAITING TO SEE YOU!

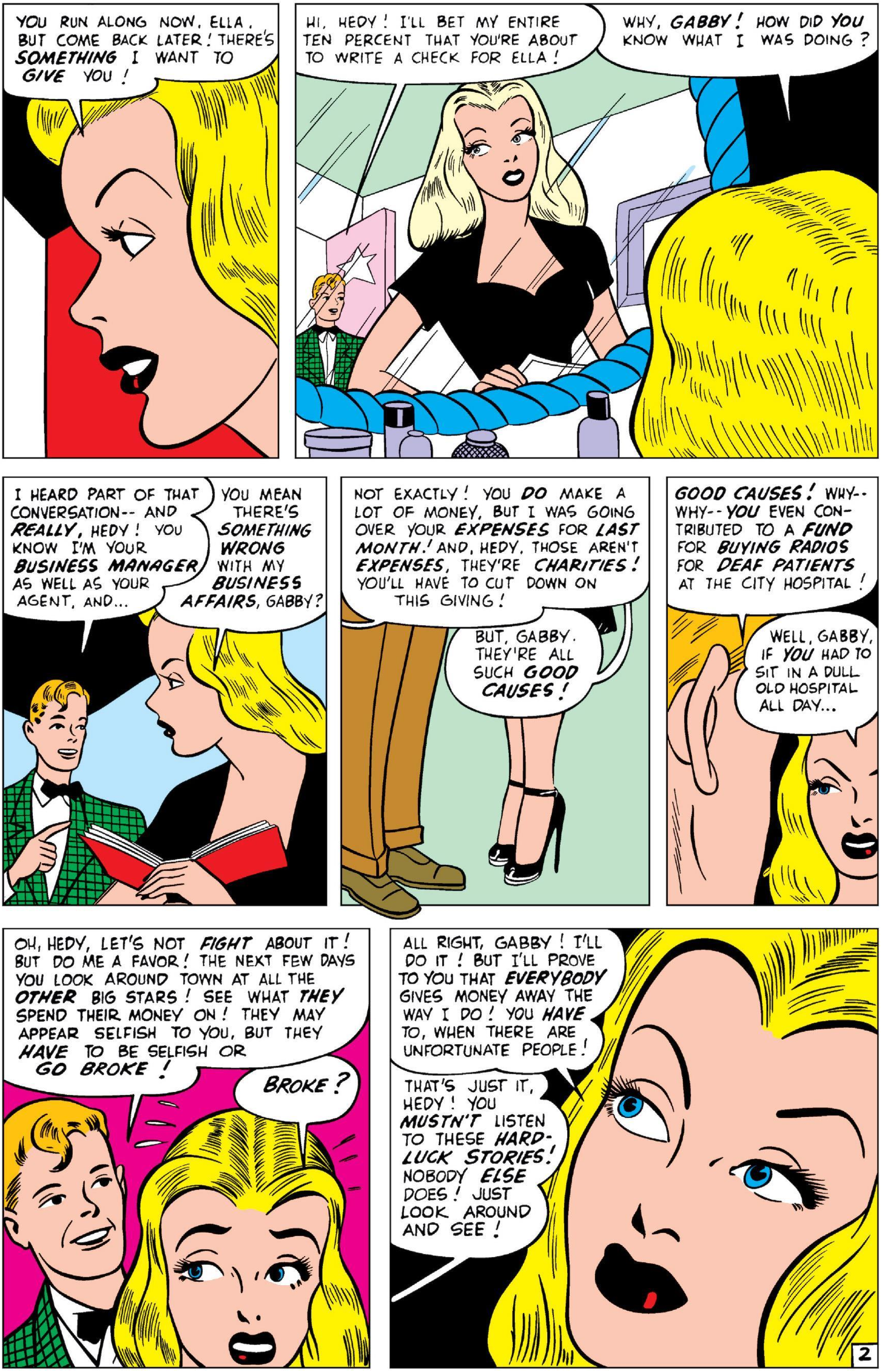

"NO, RODNEY HAD NOT FORGOTTEN THE LESSON!"
CONNIE! OH, MY DARLING! I *LOVE* YOU SO! FORGIVE ME FOR ACTING LIKE A CONCEITED CHUMP!
OF COURSE! OH, I'M SO *HAPPY!*
"MY WORK THERE WAS DONE IN A LITTLE WHILE!"
SO THERE'S MY INTERVIEW, EXCLUSIVE, MISS! I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT SINCE YOU WALKED INTO THIS ROOM, MY ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFE AND LOVE HAS *CHANGED*... AND WE'RE *BOTH* GRATEFUL TO YOU!
AND *I'M* GRATEFUL TO *YOU* FOR THE STORY! GOOD LUCK TO *BOTH* OF YOU!
GOOD-BYE... AND *BLESS* YOU!
"MEANWHILE, DELLA GLOATED AWAY OVER MY SUPPOSED FLOP!"
HO! SHE'S BACK AND IN THE BOSS' OFFICE! I'LL BET HE'S BAWLING HER OUT PLENTY FOR FOULING UP THE INTERVIEW!
DELLA! OH DELLA!
AH! HE'S CALLING ME! HE'S *FIRED* HER, AND WANTS TO MAKE *ME* EDITOR!
YES, CHIEF! COMING!
I'M READY TO TAKE OVER ANY TIME YOU...
DELLA! LOOK AT *THIS!* ISN'T IT *WONDERFUL?*
TNEY
MMOND
VENUS GOT THE *STORY* OF THE *YEAR!* RADIANT *FINALLY FOUND THE GIRL HE LOVES*... HIS HIGH SCHOOL *SWEETHEART,* AND *THEY'RE GETTING MARRIED! WOW!* WHAT A *SCOOP!* AND *VENUS DID IT!*
W-WHAT? IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!* HOW... WHAT... WHO...
YOU SEE, DELLA, I *TOLD* YOU SHE COULD DO IT! YES... VENUS IS ONE IN A MILLION! SHE DOES ALL RIGHT EVEN WHEN SHE'S COSTUMED LIKE THE REST OF YOU... ER... *ORDINARY* GALS!
HMMM...
10
THE END

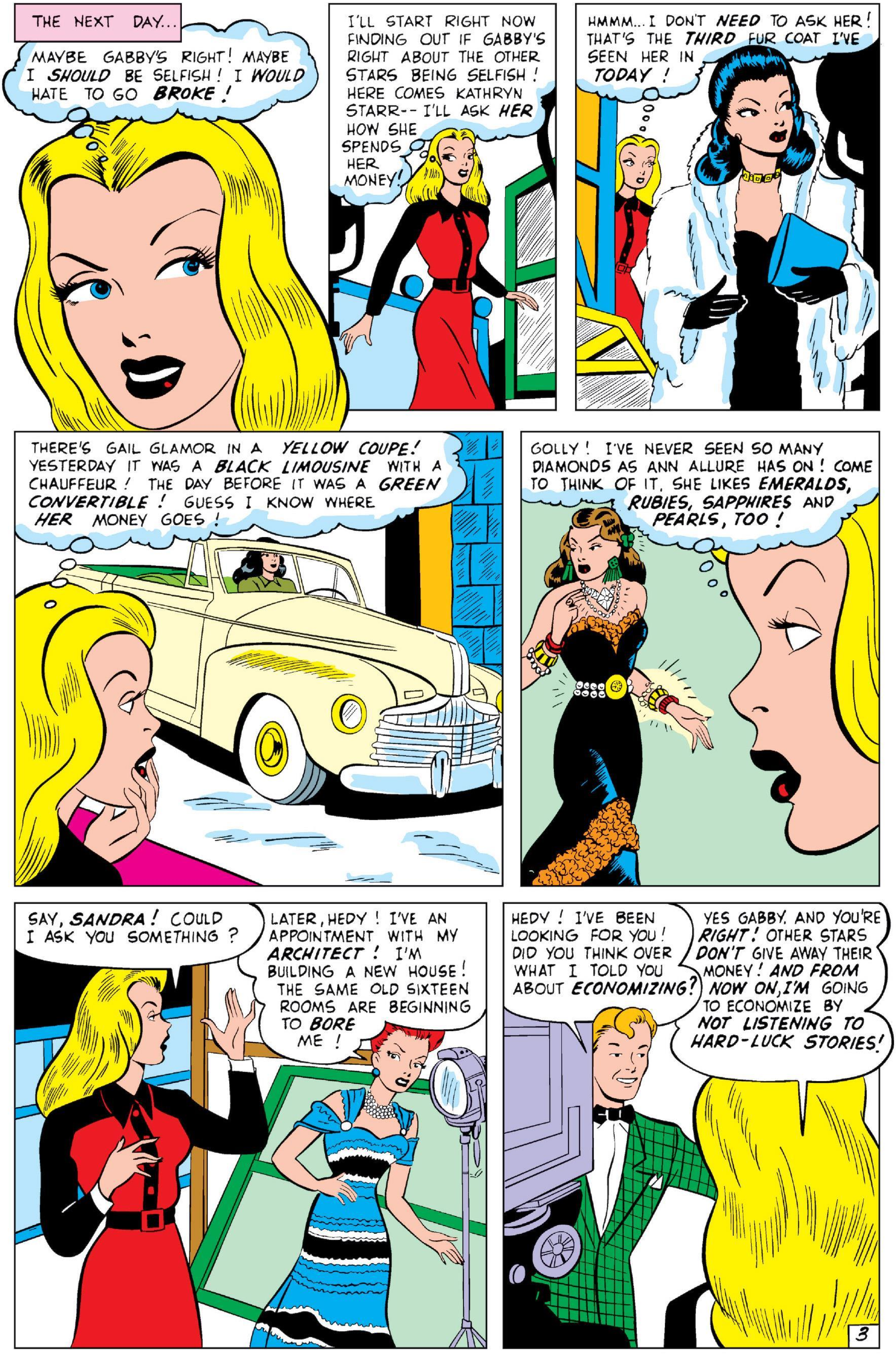
HEDY DE VINE

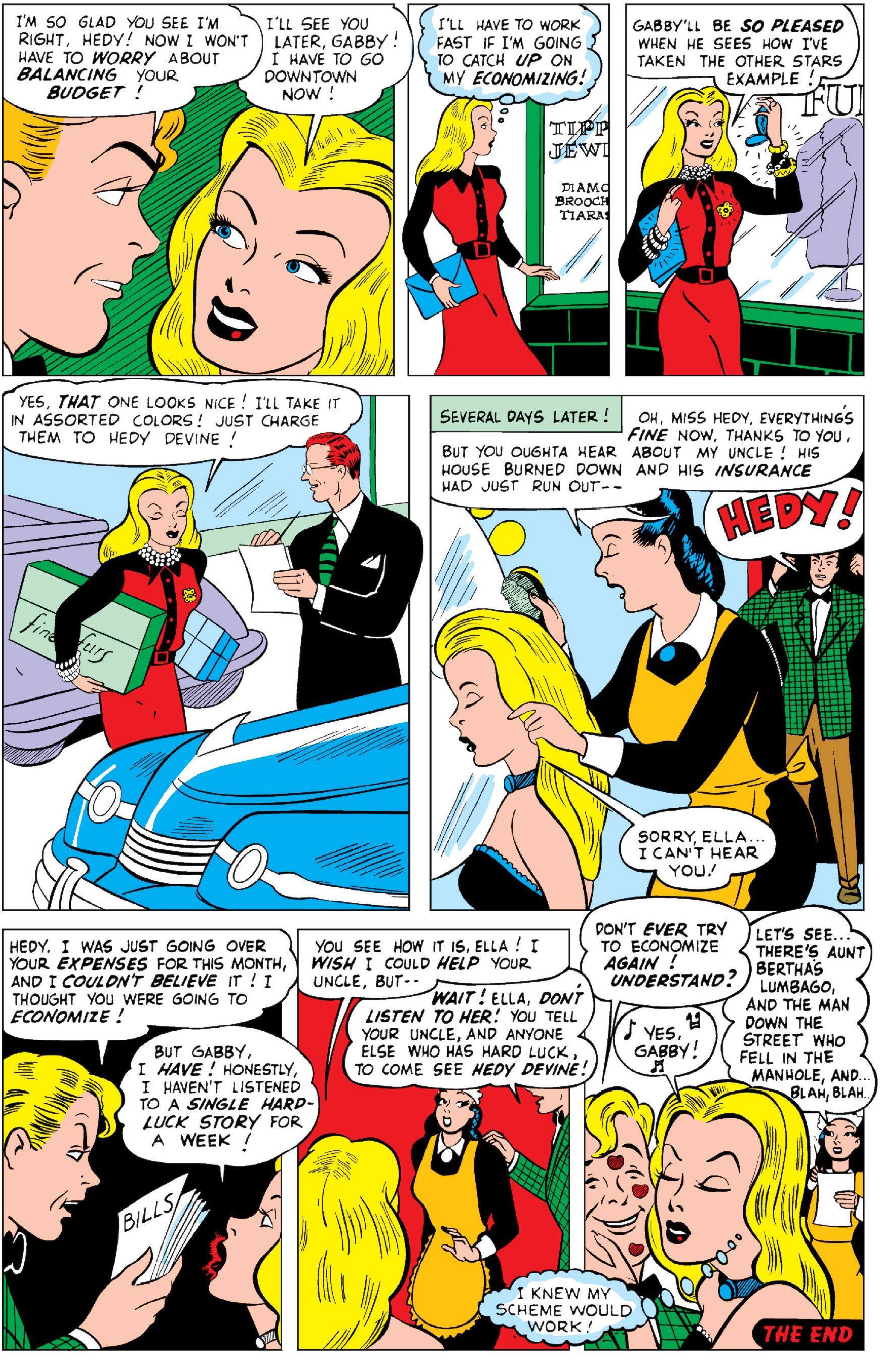

HEDY! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO ECONOMIZE!
BUT, GABBY! THINK OF THE BUS FARE I'LL SAVE!
$8,000
"MONEY MAD!"
3360

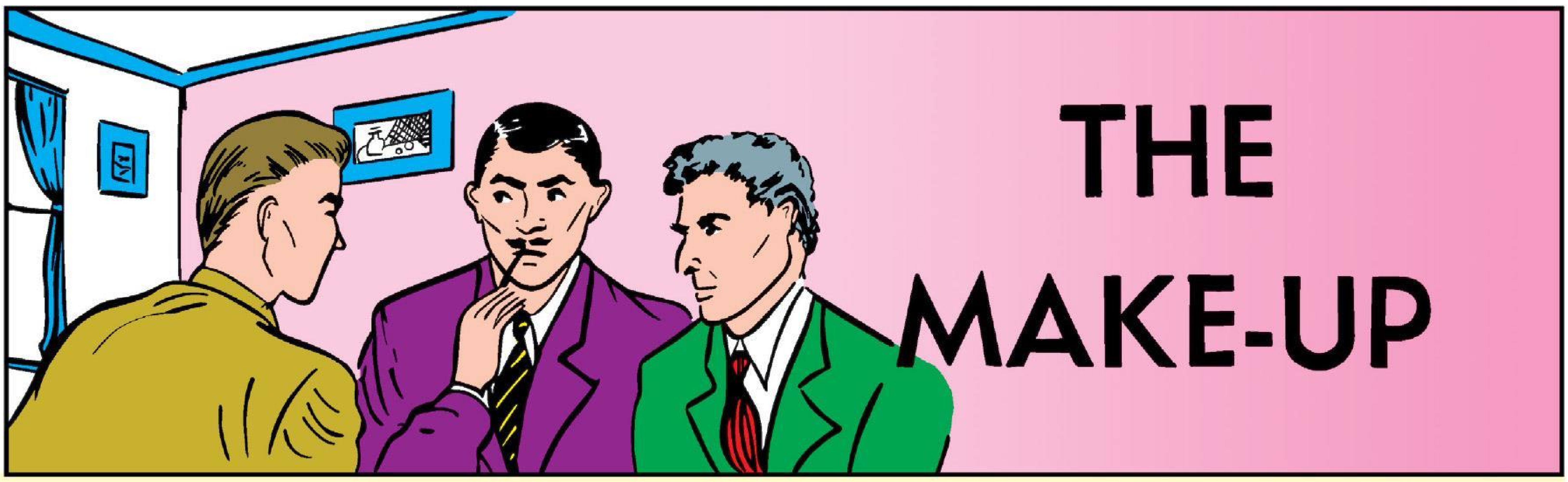

IN HEDY'S DRESSING ROOM AT COLOSSAL STUDIOS--
AND THEN, JUST AFTER MY LITTLE BOY FELL OUT OF A TREE AND BROKE HIS LEG, AND MY DAUGHTER TOOK SICK, MY MOTHER WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL FOR AN OPERATION!


MY HUSBAND HAD AN ACCIDENT AND COULDN'T WORK FOR SIX MONTHS AND...
OH ELLA, WHAT A SHAME! SO MUCH BAD LUCK!!
HEDY DEVINE


YOU RUN ALONG NOW, ELLA. BUT COME BACK LATER! THERE'S **SOMETHING** I WANT TO **GIVE** YOU!
HI, HEDY! I'LL BET MY ENTIRE TEN PERCENT THAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO WRITE A CHECK FOR ELLA!
WHY, **GABBY!** HOW DID **YOU** KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING?
I HEARD PART OF THAT CONVERSATION-- AND **REALLY**, HEDY! YOU KNOW I'M YOUR **BUSINESS MANAGER** AS WELL AS YOUR AGENT, AND...
YOU MEAN THERE'S **SOMETHING WRONG** WITH MY **BUSINESS AFFAIRS**, GABBY?
NOT EXACTLY! YOU **DO** MAKE A LOT OF MONEY, BUT I WAS GOING OVER YOUR **EXPENSES** FOR **LAST MONTH**! AND, HEDY, THOSE AREN'T **EXPENSES**, THEY'RE **CHARITIES**! YOU'LL HAVE TO CUT DOWN ON THIS GIVING!
BUT, GABBY, THEY'RE ALL SUCH **GOOD CAUSES**!
GOOD CAUSES! WHY-- WHY-- **YOU** EVEN CONTRIBUTED TO A **FUND** FOR **BUYING RADIOS** FOR **DEAF PATIENTS** AT THE CITY HOSPITAL!
WELL, GABBY, IF **YOU** HAD TO SIT IN A DULL OLD HOSPITAL ALL DAY...
OH, HEDY, LET'S NOT **FIGHT** ABOUT IT! BUT DO ME A FAVOR! THE NEXT FEW DAYS YOU LOOK AROUND TOWN AT ALL THE **OTHER** BIG STARS! SEE WHAT **THEY** SPEND THEIR MONEY ON! THEY MAY APPEAR SELFISH TO YOU, BUT THEY **HAVE** TO BE SELFISH OR **GO BROKE**!
BROKE?
ALL RIGHT, GABBY! I'LL DO IT! BUT I'LL PROVE TO YOU THAT **EVERYBODY** GIVES MONEY AWAY THE WAY I DO! YOU **HAVE** TO, WHEN THERE ARE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE!
THAT'S JUST IT, HEDY! YOU **MUSTN'T** LISTEN TO THESE **HARD-LUCK STORIES**! NOBODY **ELSE** DOES! JUST LOOK AROUND AND SEE!
2


THE NEXT DAY...
MAYBE GABBY'S RIGHT! MAYBE I *SHOULD* BE SELFISH! I *WOULD* HATE TO GO *BROKE*!
I'LL START RIGHT NOW FINDING OUT IF GABBY'S RIGHT ABOUT THE OTHER STARS BEING SELFISH! HERE COMES KATHRYN STARR-- I'LL ASK *HER* HOW SHE SPENDS HER MONEY!
HMMM... I DON'T *NEED* TO ASK HER! THAT'S THE *THIRD* FUR COAT I'VE SEEN HER IN *TODAY*!
THERE'S GAIL GLAMOR IN A *YELLOW COUPE!* YESTERDAY IT WAS A *BLACK LIMOUSINE* WITH A CHAUFFEUR! THE DAY BEFORE IT WAS A *GREEN CONVERTIBLE*! GUESS I KNOW WHERE *HER* MONEY GOES!
GOLLY! I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY DIAMONDS AS ANN ALLURE HAS ON! COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE LIKES *EMERALDS, RUBIES, SAPPHIRES* AND *PEARLS, TOO*!
SAY, *SANDRA*! COULD I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
LATER, HEDY! I'VE AN APPOINTMENT WITH MY *ARCHITECT*! I'M BUILDING A NEW HOUSE! THE SAME OLD SIXTEEN ROOMS ARE BEGINNING TO *BORE* ME!
HEDY! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! DID YOU THINK OVER WHAT I TOLD YOU ABOUT *ECONOMIZING*?
YES GABBY. AND YOU'RE *RIGHT*! OTHER STARS *DON'T* GIVE AWAY THEIR MONEY! *AND FROM NOW ON, I'M* GOING TO ECONOMIZE BY *NOT LISTENING TO HARD-LUCK STORIES*!


I'M SO GLAD YOU SEE I'M RIGHT, HEDY! NOW I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BALANCING YOUR BUDGET!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, GABBY! I HAVE TO GO DOWNTOWN NOW!
I'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST IF I'M GOING TO CATCH UP ON MY ECONOMIZING!
TIPP JEWE
DIAMO BROOCH TIARAS
GABBY'LL BE SO PLEASED WHEN HE SEES HOW I'VE TAKEN THE OTHER STARS EXAMPLE!
FU
YES, THAT ONE LOOKS NICE! I'LL TAKE IT IN ASSORTED COLORS! JUST CHARGE THEM TO HEDY DEVINE!
fine furs
SEVERAL DAYS LATER!
OH, MISS HEDY, EVERYTHING'S FINE NOW, THANKS TO YOU. BUT YOU OUGHTA HEAR ABOUT MY UNCLE! HIS HOUSE BURNED DOWN AND HIS INSURANCE HAD JUST RUN OUT--
HEDY!
SORRY, ELLA... I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
HEDY, I WAS JUST GOING OVER YOUR EXPENSES FOR THIS MONTH, AND I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO ECONOMIZE!
BUT GABBY, I HAVE! HONESTLY, I HAVEN'T LISTENED TO A SINGLE HARD-LUCK STORY FOR A WEEK!
BILLS
YOU SEE HOW IT IS, ELLA! I WISH I COULD HELP YOUR UNCLE, BUT--
WAIT! ELLA, DON'T LISTEN TO HER! YOU TELL YOUR UNCLE, AND ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS HARD LUCK, TO COME SEE HEDY DEVINE!
I KNEW MY SCHEME WOULD WORK!
DON'T EVER TRY TO ECONOMIZE AGAIN! UNDERSTAND?
♪ YES, GABBY! ♬
LET'S SEE... THERE'S AUNT BERTHA'S LUMBAGO, AND THE MAN DOWN THE STREET WHO FELL IN THE MANHOLE, AND... BLAH, BLAH..
THE END



THE MAKE-UP

AS JOCK ADLERS braked his station wagon to a halt at a red light, the door suddenly opened on the passenger side. Jock glanced over. He looked straight into the muzzle of a gun held by a tall man who slid quickly onto the front seat. "Get going, bud," the gunman snapped, "and follow my directions, or I'll drill you!"

"The cops after you?" Jock asked, striving to keep his voice calm.

"Not yet," answered the man, "but they will be as soon as they find out about the cash I picked up from a grocery store."

Jock kept glancing nervously at his companion as he drove out of the city. "I've seen your picture, haven't I?" he asked.

"Yeah," grinned the man, "pictures of me and my two buddies were featured on the front pages about two weeks ago. We pulled a big jewelry robbery then, but we haven't dared try to sell the jewels yet. Things are too hot around here. This cash I swiped tonight will get us the dough we need to make our getaway to the west coast, and we can get rid of the jewels there."

The man looked over his shoulder at the back seats of the station wagon, piled high with suitcases. Each suitcase was stenciled with the words, *The Bemmington Theater Group.* The man looked at Jock curiously. "You an actor?"

"Not yet," Jock almost smiled. "I'm sort of general handy man around the stage. Right now I'm specializing in make-up."

The man's eyes narrowed. "Make-up, huh? Say, maybe you've given me a good idea!"

They drove for two hours out into the country until the man finally growled, "Turn off here."

Jock directed the car onto a dirt road, which they followed for about fifteen miles. Then he was ordered to turn onto a narrower, rutted, dirt road. After ten minutes more of driving they arrived at an old dilapidated farmhouse.

Two men ran toward them as soon as the car stopped. "Did you get some dough, Bugs?" one of them shouted.

"Yeah, Tiny," laughed Bugs, "four hundred bucks." Bugs prodded Jock with his gun, and Jock got out.

"Who is *this* guy?" both men cried.

"I had to pick him up to make my getaway," Bugs said. "And I think he's going to be useful."

Bugs ordered Jock into the house. When they were inside, they all sat down and Bugs smiled at his two henchmen. "Boys, this guy I picked up turned out to be a make-up artist with a theatrical group. His station wagon is loaded with their equipment, and I'm sure he has a make-up kit with him. Can't you see the possibilities, boys "

Both crooks scratched their chins. Then Tiny broke into a broad grin. "I get it. This guy will make us up so we won't be recognized when we make a break for it. That's swell, because the cops sure know what our real faces look like."

"Hey, Bugs," Tiny's pal broke in, "did you get a paper so we could see if we're still being featured?"

Bugs snorted, "Get a *paper!* Why, I just had time to rob that grocery store and beat it."

"Gosh, boss," complained Tiny, "we haven't seen a paper or heard a radio for two weeks. Hiding out in this farmhouse is practically driving us nuts."

Bugs laughed. "We won't stay any longer, boys. We've got money now, and with the help of our make-up artist, we'll be off for the west coast right away."

Jock stared at Bugs. "If you think I'm going to help three crooks escape from the law, you're crazy," he said in what he hoped were firm tones.

But Bugs leaped up and cracked him on the head with his gun butt, almost knocking him from his chair. Jock realized these boys meant business.

What could he do? He couldn't fight three armed men. He searched his mind swiftly for an idea to thwart their escape—and suddenly remembered something they had discussed in front of him. He knew he had a terrific idea! "Okay, you win," he grinned at Bugs. "I'll make you boys up so you'll never be recognized by the cops."

Bugs purred, "That's better, friend. Let's get started."

Followed by Bugs, Jock went to the station wagon and located his make-up kit. Back in the house, Bugs ordered Jock to make up Tiny and his pal first.

Jock worked slowly and methodically. He applied make-up, molded noses, changed mouth-lines and even put a mustache on Tiny. He seemed to want to get every little feature just right, and the two crooks enjoyed being worked on. When Jock finished with them, Bugs let out a whistle of admiration. "Boy, that's great! Their own mother wouldn't recognize them. Now work me over." Bugs handed his gun to Tiny.

Tiny kept Jock covered while he made Bugs up. When Jock finished, he stood up to admire himself in an old mirror. "Perfect," he muttered. "Now to get out of this dump."

The men rearranged the suitcases and climbed into the station wagon, Jock got in behind the steering wheel, and they started off. In a few hours they were on the state highway, and Jock began speeding. If only he could get picked up by a cop! The three crooks were so pleased with themselves they didn't notice Jock's hurrying—until a siren sounded. Then, "What are you trying to do, wise guy?" Bugs snarled at Jock, shoving his gun into Jock's ribs.

Jock smiled, "I'm sorry. I didn't realize how fast I was going. Should I outrun the cop or let him stop us? You've really got nothing to worry about with the make-up job I've given all of you."

"Yeah, that's right," Bugs agreed. "Better stop and let the cops give you a ticket. No sense in arousing suspicion."

Jock pulled over as two state troopers rode up beside the station wagon. They got off their motorcycles and came over to look in, playing a flashlight on the faces of the crooks. Then suddenly they reached for their guns. Immediately the three crooks had theirs whipped out. Jock dropped to the floor, and bullets whistled above him as the state troopers ducked to the ground. Bugs tried to start the station wagon's motor, but Jock sprang up and grabbed his wrist, forcing him to drop his gun, while the state troopers kept the two crooks in the back seat busy dodging bullets. In ten minutes the fight was over.

The troopers handcuffed the three crooks. "Well," one of them said, "I never thought we'd get you three killers from the Gorg gang all at one time."

"Killers from the Gorg gang!" screamed Bugs. "You're crazy! We're the three guys that pulled the big jewelry job two weeks ago."

"Don't try to fool us," snapped the trooper. He looked at Bugs. "You're Jake Lubrow, and your two pals are Benny Gesell and Harry Groton."

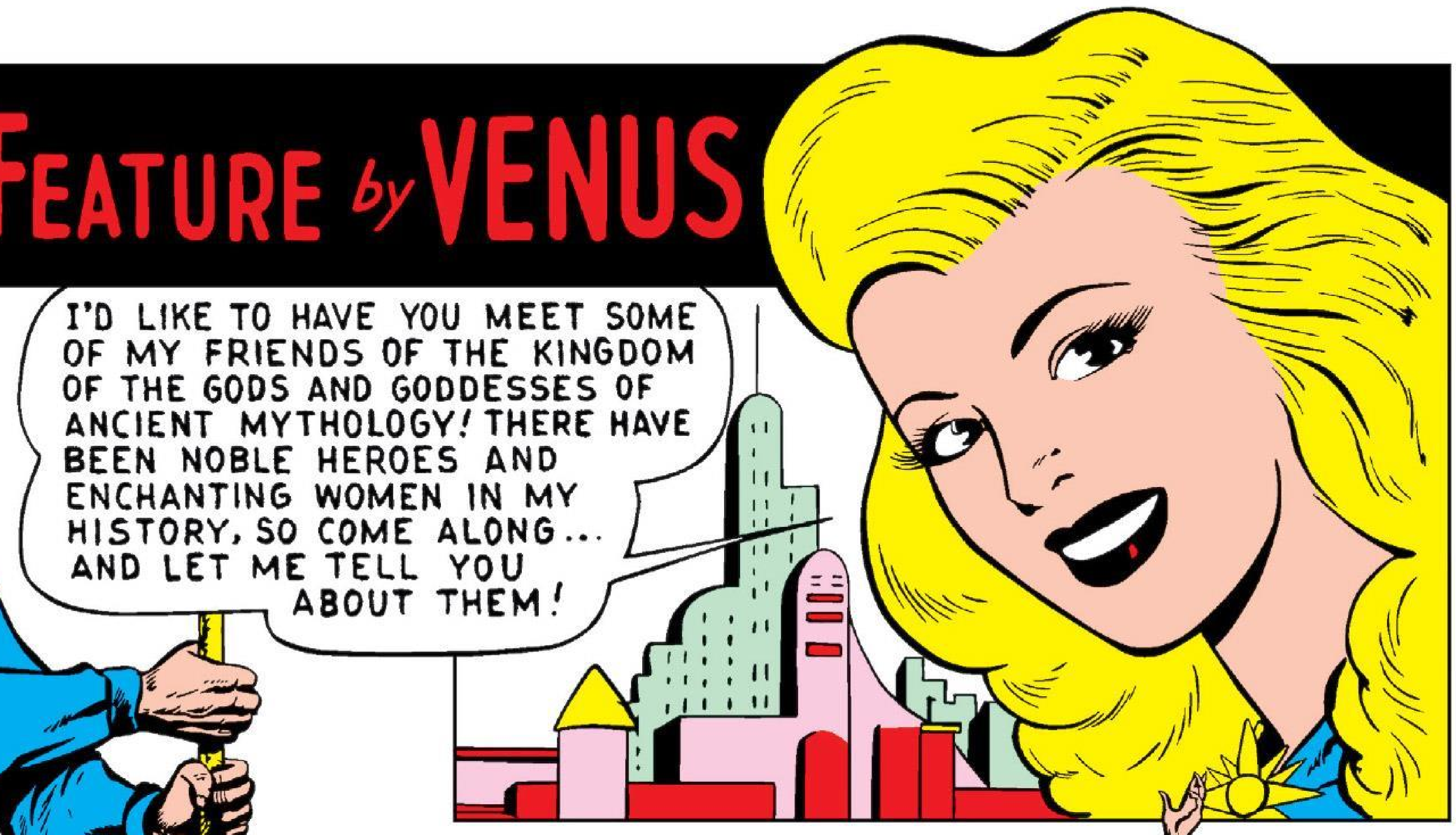
The three crooks screamed denials. Jock had been standing there looking very amused, but now he burst out laughing. "I'm afraid they're right, officer. They're the jewel thiefs—not the killers. You see, Bugs captured me after he'd robbed a store, and forced me to make them up. But during their conversation I learned they hadn't seen a paper in two weeks so I knew they didn't know about the murders committed by Lubrow, Gesell and Groton that have been making the front pages this last week. I remembered what the three killers looked like from newspaper pictures, and I made these three guys up to look like them. Then I just prayed some cops would pick us up and think they were the killers." Jock rubbed his hand over Bug's face, and some of the make-up came off. Then he ripped Tiny's mustache off.

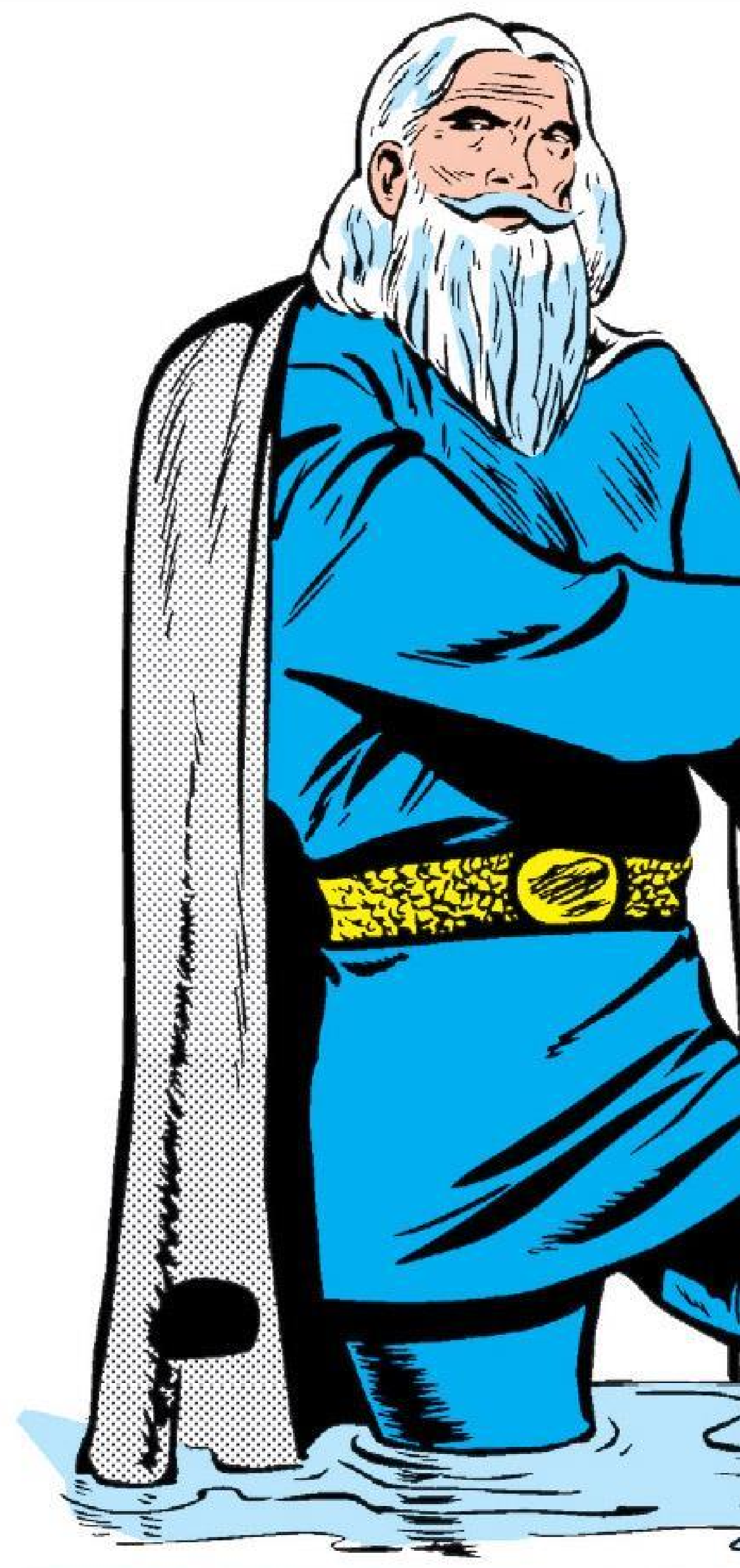
"Well!" cried the amazed troopers. "You certainly are a fast thinker, son."

"You have to be in show business," Jock smiled. "Now I'd better be getting back, or the boss will think I've run off with all the equipment." Jock got into the station wagon and, as he pulled away, shouted to the crooks, "Thanks for the make-up practice, boys!"

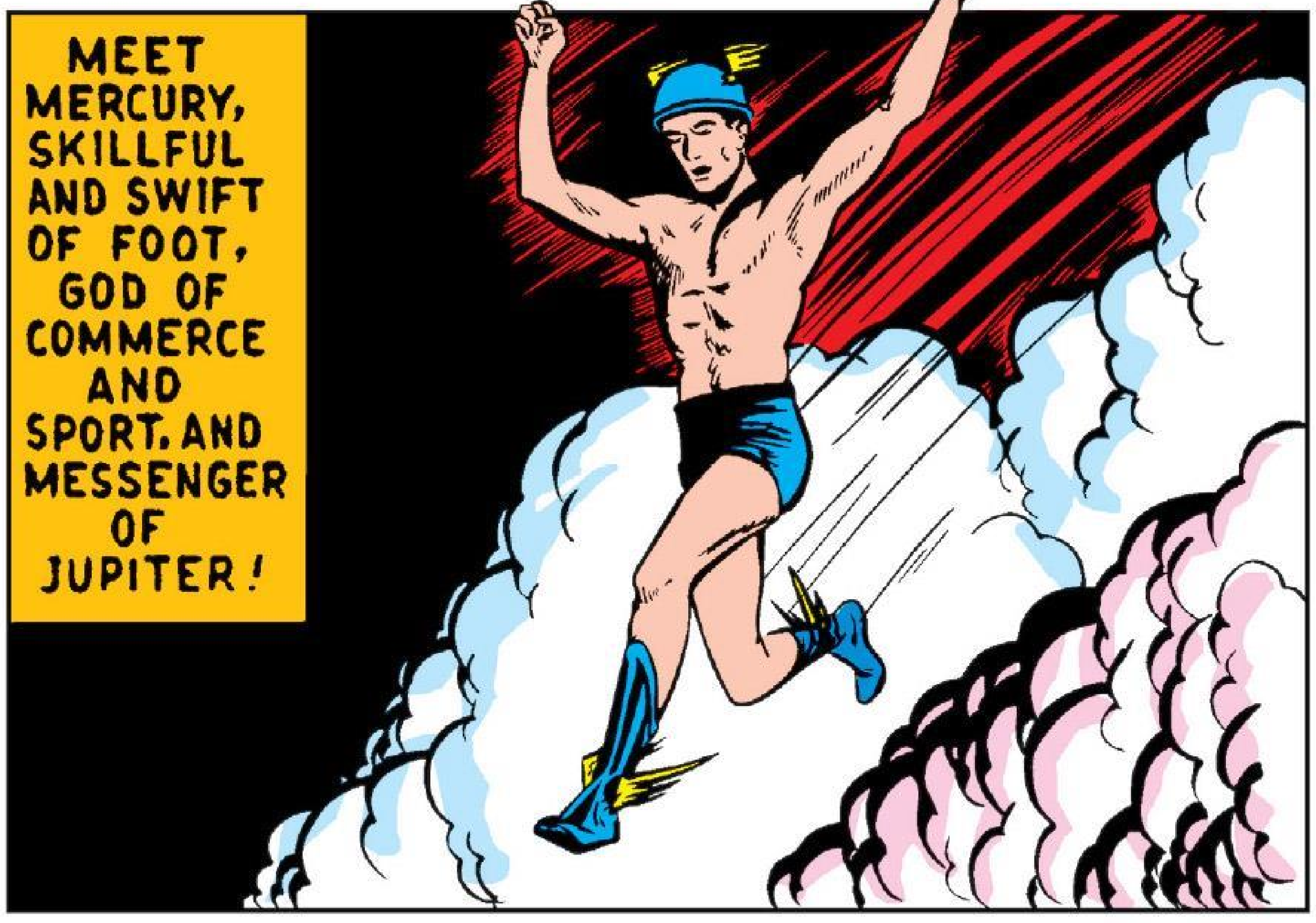
THE END.

A SPECIAL FEATURE by VENUS

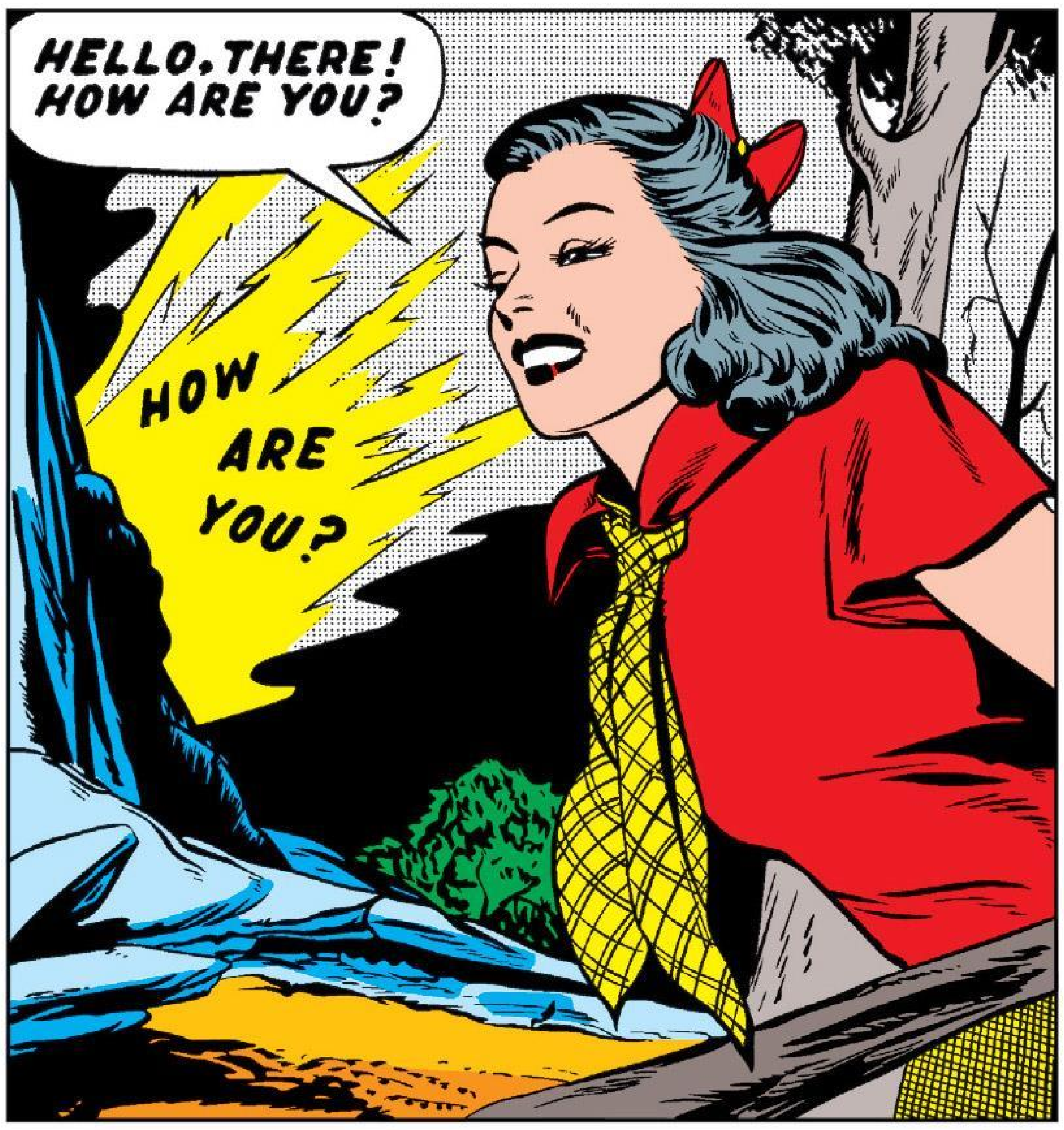

I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOU MEET SOME OF MY FRIENDS OF THE KINGDOM OF THE GODS AND GODDESSES OF ANCIENT MYTHOLOGY! THERE HAVE BEEN NOBLE HEROES AND ENCHANTING WOMEN IN MY HISTORY, SO COME ALONG... AND LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THEM!



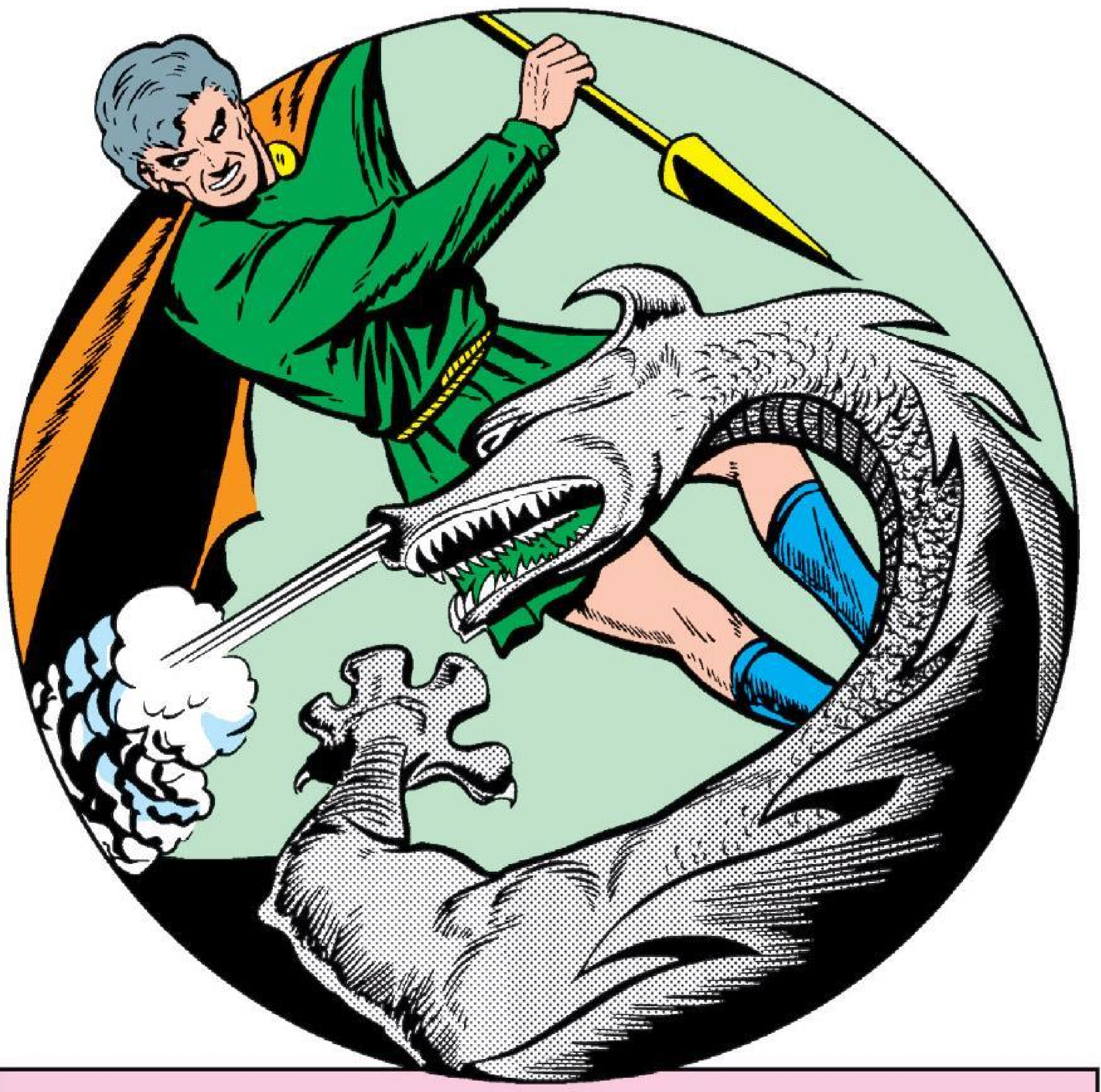
THIS IS NEPTUNE, CHIEF OF THE WATER DEITIES! HIS POWER IS GREAT... HE CAN CREATE TERRIFYING STORMS, AND CALM THEM! RULER IS HE OF ALL THE KINGDOMS UNDER THE SEA, AND INTO HIS CARE ARE ENTRUSTED THE SHIPS THAT SAIL THE OCEANS!



MEET MERCURY, SKILLFUL AND SWIFT OF FOOT, GOD OF COMMERCE AND SPORT, AND MESSENGER OF JUPITER!


HELLO, THERE! HOW ARE YOU?
HOW ARE YOU?

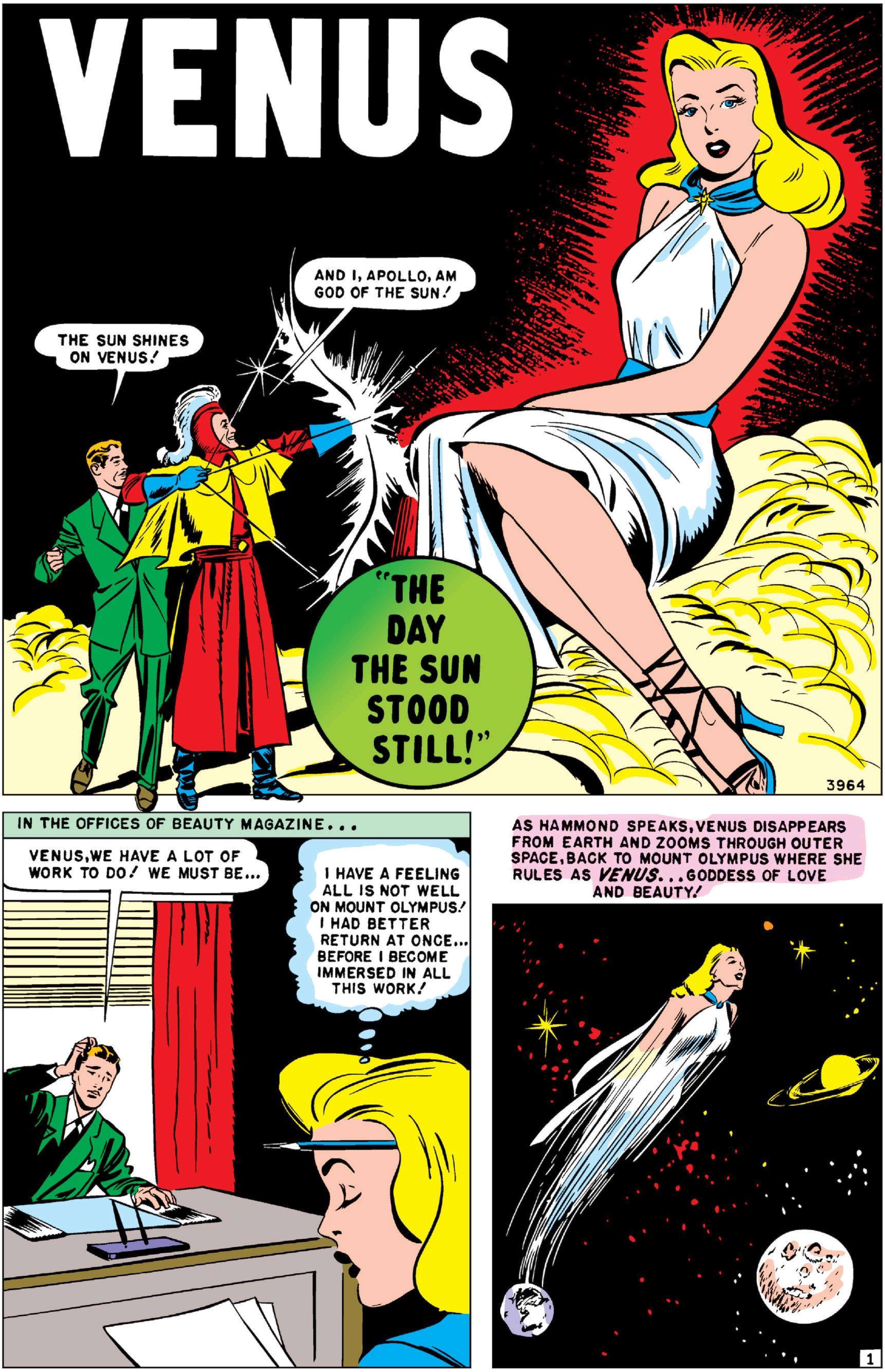
HAS THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE EVER COME BACK TO YOU AS YOU CALLED OUT? THAT'S BECAUSE OF MY FRIEND THE LOVELY NYMPH ***ECHO!*** BECAUSE SHE ONCE ANGERED THE QUEEN GODDESS, JUNO, BY TALKING TOO MUCH, SHE WAS CONDEMNED TO FOREVER SPEAK THE LAST WORD, BUT ***ONLY*** THE LAST WORD! ALL SHE COULD DO WAS ***REPLY,*** NEVER SPEAK FIRST! HER FORM FADED WITH GRIEF. TILL AT LAST THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT BUT HER VOICE, WHICH STILL LURKS IN THE MOUNTAINS AND CAVES TO ANSWER YOU!

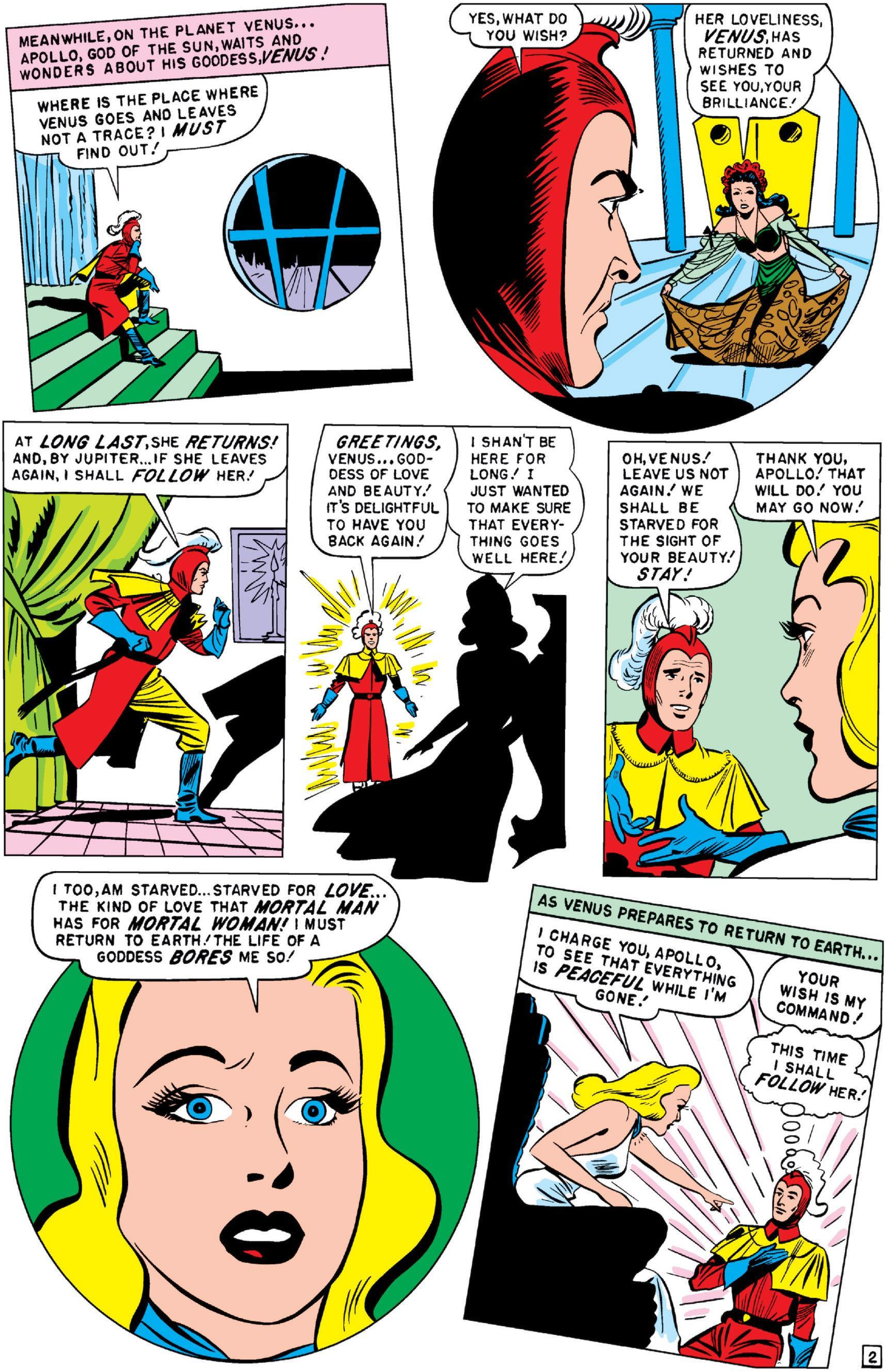


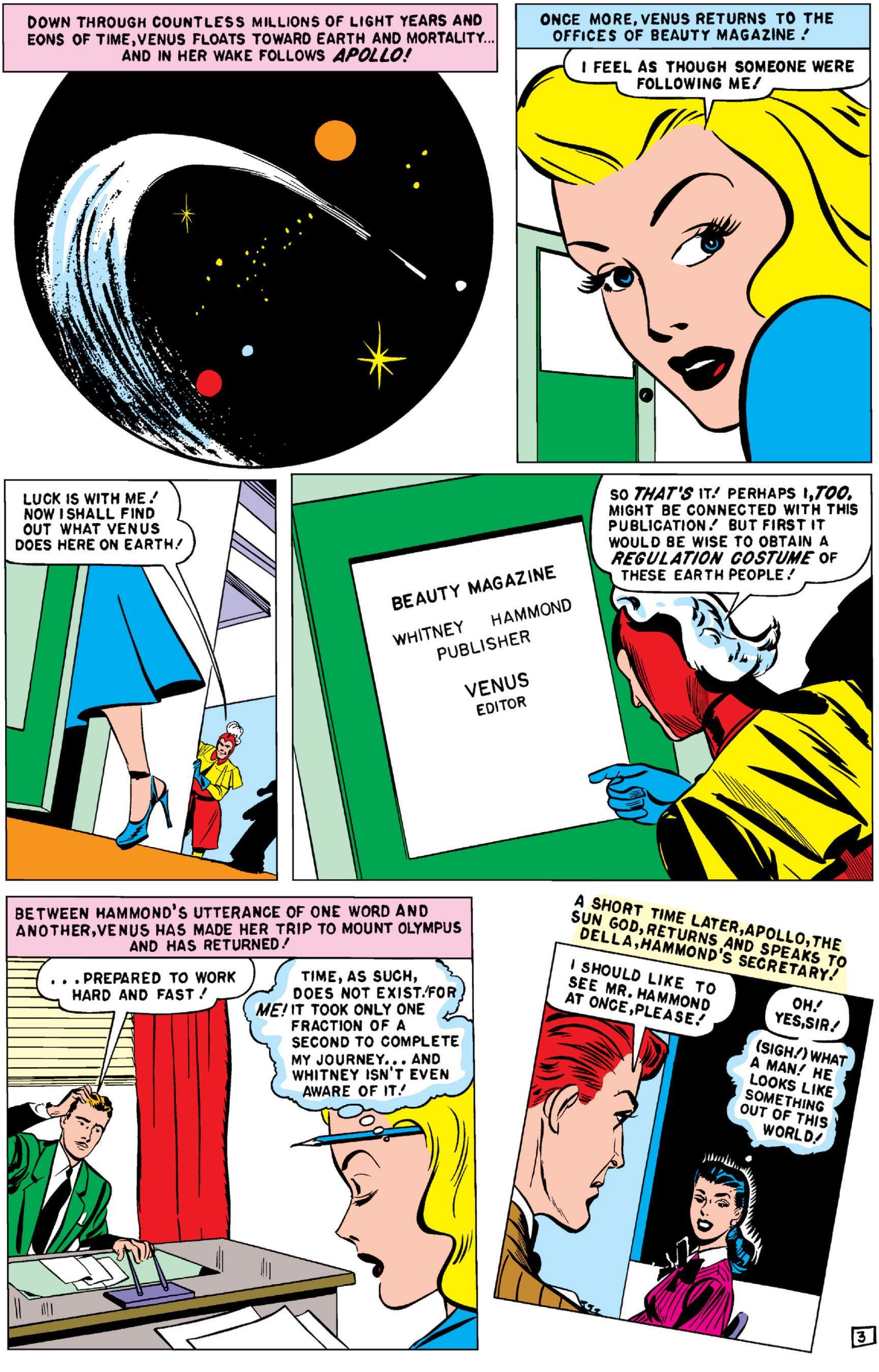
CADMUS, MIGHTY HERO AND SON OF THE KING OF PHOENICIA, SEARCHED IN VAIN FOR HIS SISTER WHO HAD BEEN CARRIED AWAY BY JUPITER! AFRAID TO RETURN HOME. HE FOUGHT ONE OF THE GREATEST BATTLES IN ANCIENT TIMES AGAINST THE FEARFUL AND TERRIFYING PLAGUE OF PANOPE, THE MONSTER WITH THE TRIPLE TONGUE, WHICH HE DESTROYED! THERE IS A TRADITION THAT CADMUS INTRODUCED INTO GREECE THE ALPHABET WHICH HAD BEEN INVENTED BY THE PHOENICIANS!

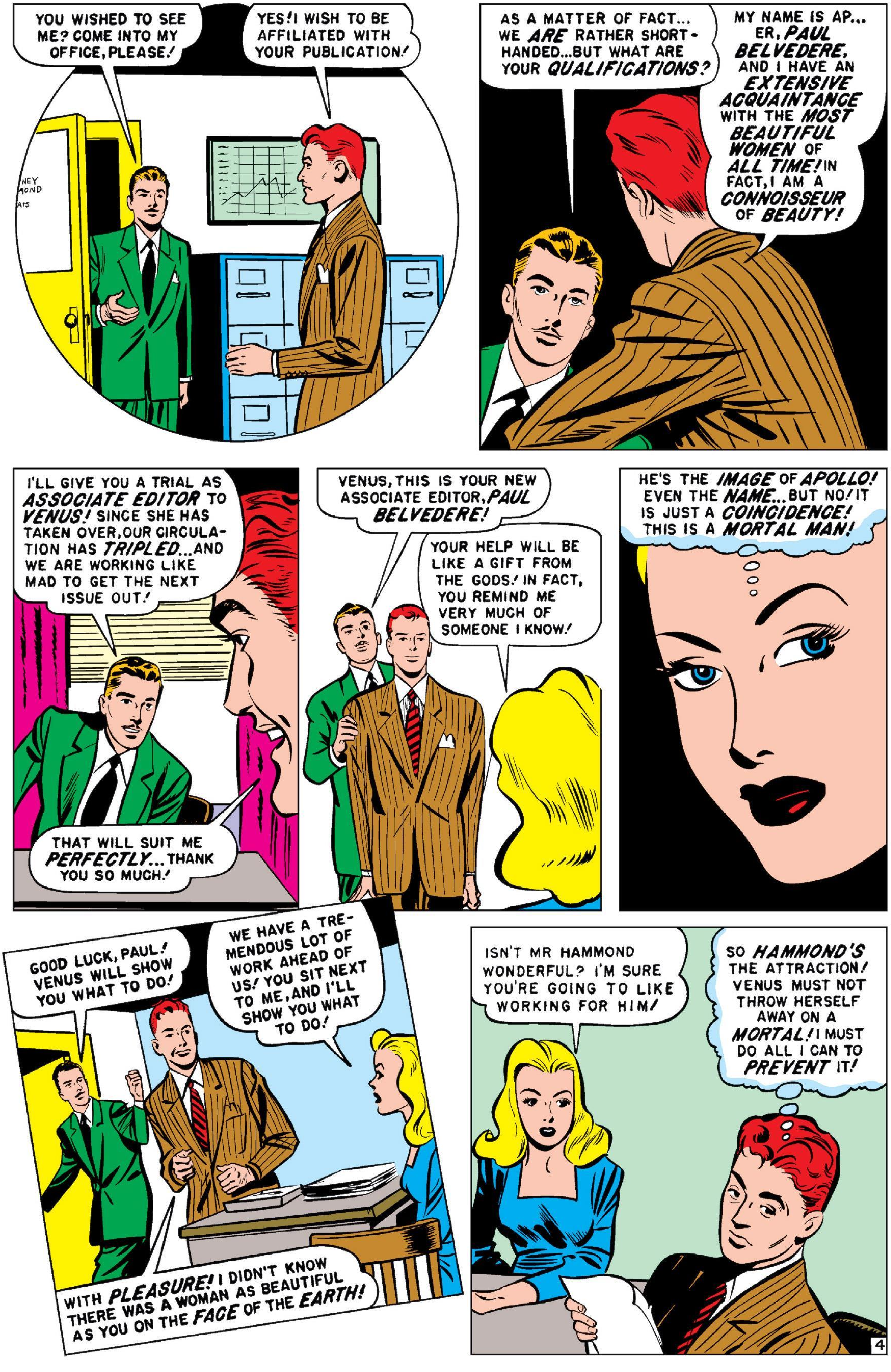
MYTHOLIGICALLY YOURS-- Venus!

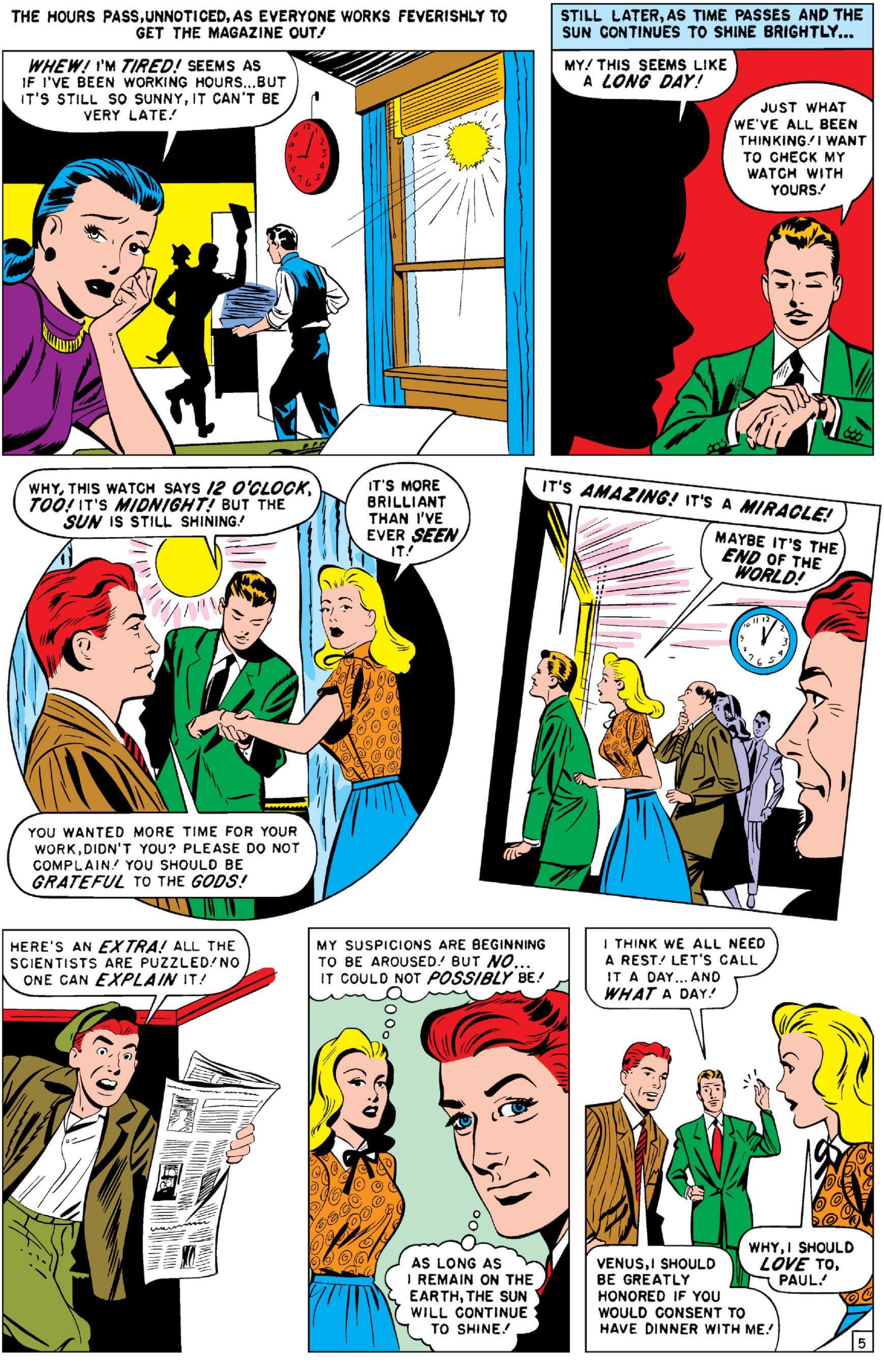
3896

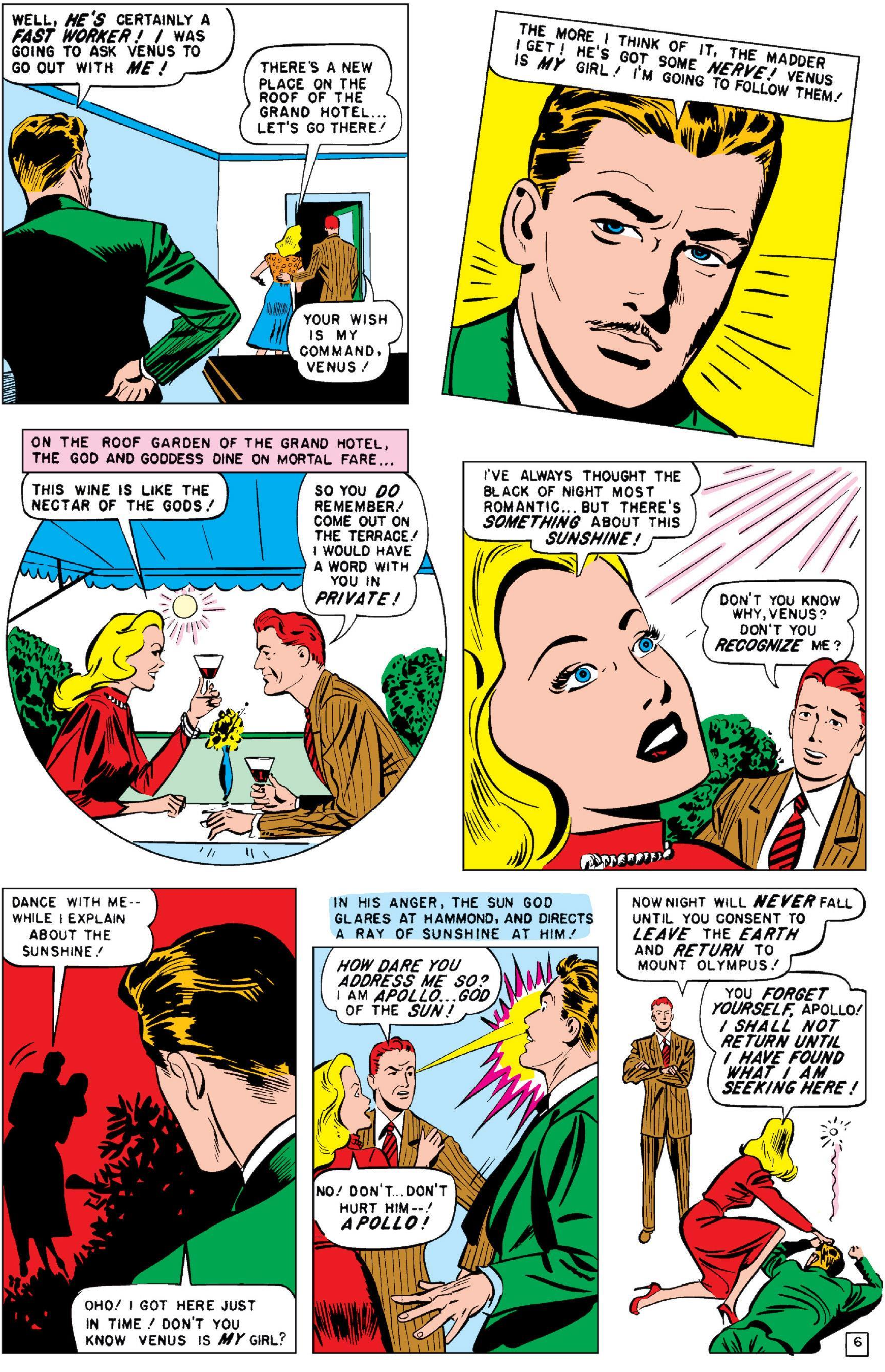

VENUS
AND I, APOLLO, AM GOD OF THE SUN!
THE SUN SHINES ON VENUS!
"THE DAY THE SUN STOOD STILL!"
3964
IN THE OFFICES OF BEAUTY MAGAZINE...
VENUS, WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO! WE MUST BE...
I HAVE A FEELING ALL IS NOT WELL ON MOUNT OLYMPUS! I HAD BETTER RETURN AT ONCE... BEFORE I BECOME IMMERSED IN ALL THIS WORK!
AS HAMMOND SPEAKS, VENUS DISAPPEARS FROM EARTH AND ZOOMS THROUGH OUTER SPACE, BACK TO MOUNT OLYMPUS WHERE SHE RULES AS VENUS...GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY!
1

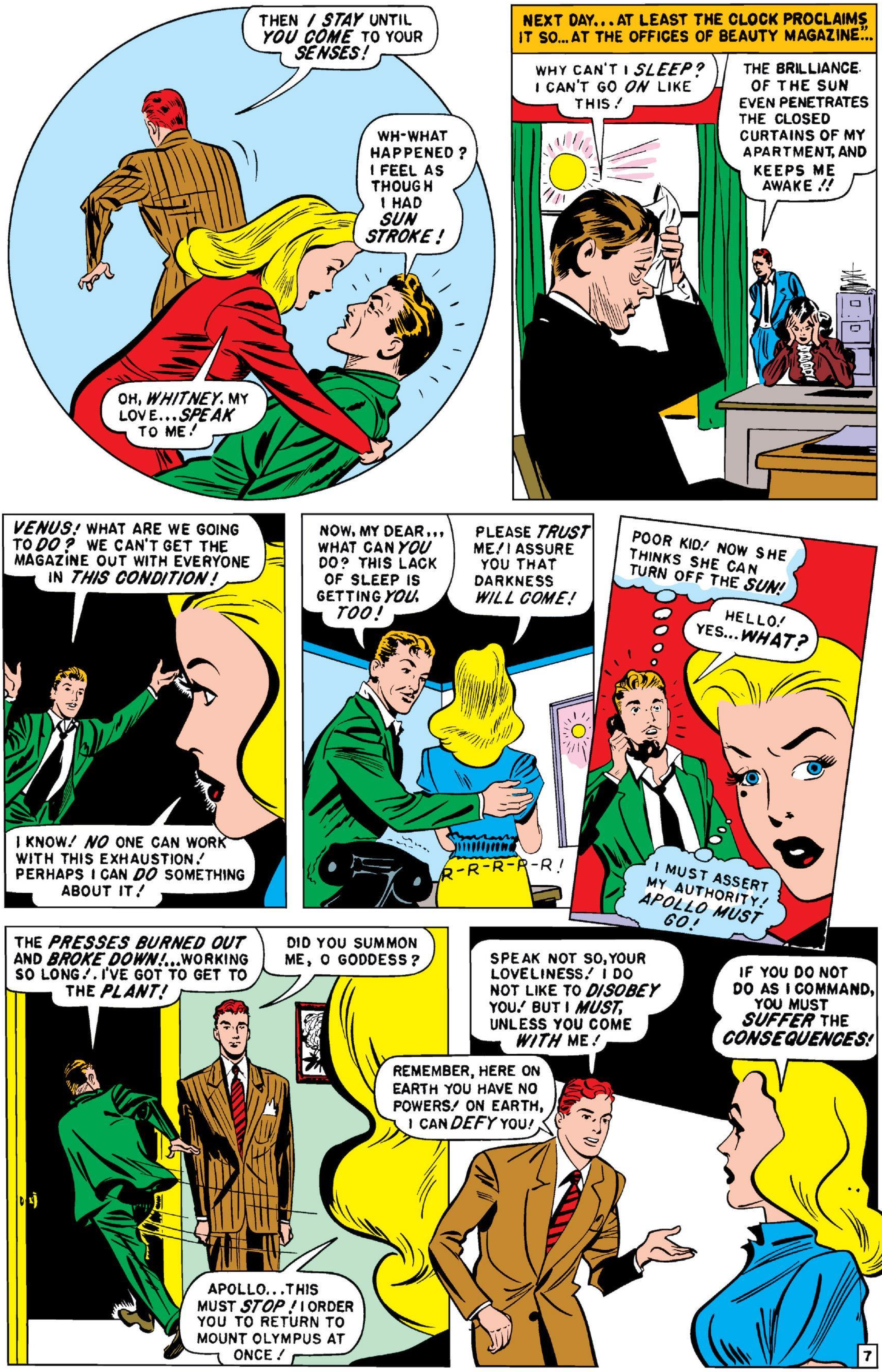

MEANWHILE, ON THE PLANET VENUS... APOLLO, GOD OF THE SUN, WAITS AND WONDERS ABOUT HIS GODDESS, *VENUS*!
WHERE IS THE PLACE WHERE VENUS GOES AND LEAVES NOT A TRACE? I *MUST* FIND OUT!
YES, WHAT DO YOU WISH?
HER LOVELINESS, *VENUS*, HAS RETURNED AND WISHES TO SEE YOU, YOUR BRILLIANCE!
AT *LONG LAST*, SHE *RETURNS*! AND, BY JUPITER... IF SHE LEAVES AGAIN, I SHALL *FOLLOW* HER!
GREETINGS, VENUS... GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY! IT'S DELIGHTFUL TO HAVE YOU BACK AGAIN!
I SHAN'T BE HERE FOR LONG! I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING GOES WELL HERE!
OH, VENUS! LEAVE US NOT AGAIN! WE SHALL BE STARVED FOR THE SIGHT OF YOUR BEAUTY! *STAY*!
THANK YOU, APOLLO! THAT WILL DO! YOU MAY GO NOW!
I TOO, AM STARVED... STARVED FOR *LOVE*... THE KIND OF LOVE THAT *MORTAL MAN* HAS FOR *MORTAL WOMAN*! I MUST RETURN TO EARTH! THE LIFE OF A GODDESS *BORES* ME SO!
AS VENUS PREPARES TO RETURN TO EARTH...
I CHARGE YOU, APOLLO, TO SEE THAT EVERYTHING IS *PEACEFUL* WHILE I'M GONE!
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND!
THIS TIME I SHALL *FOLLOW* HER!

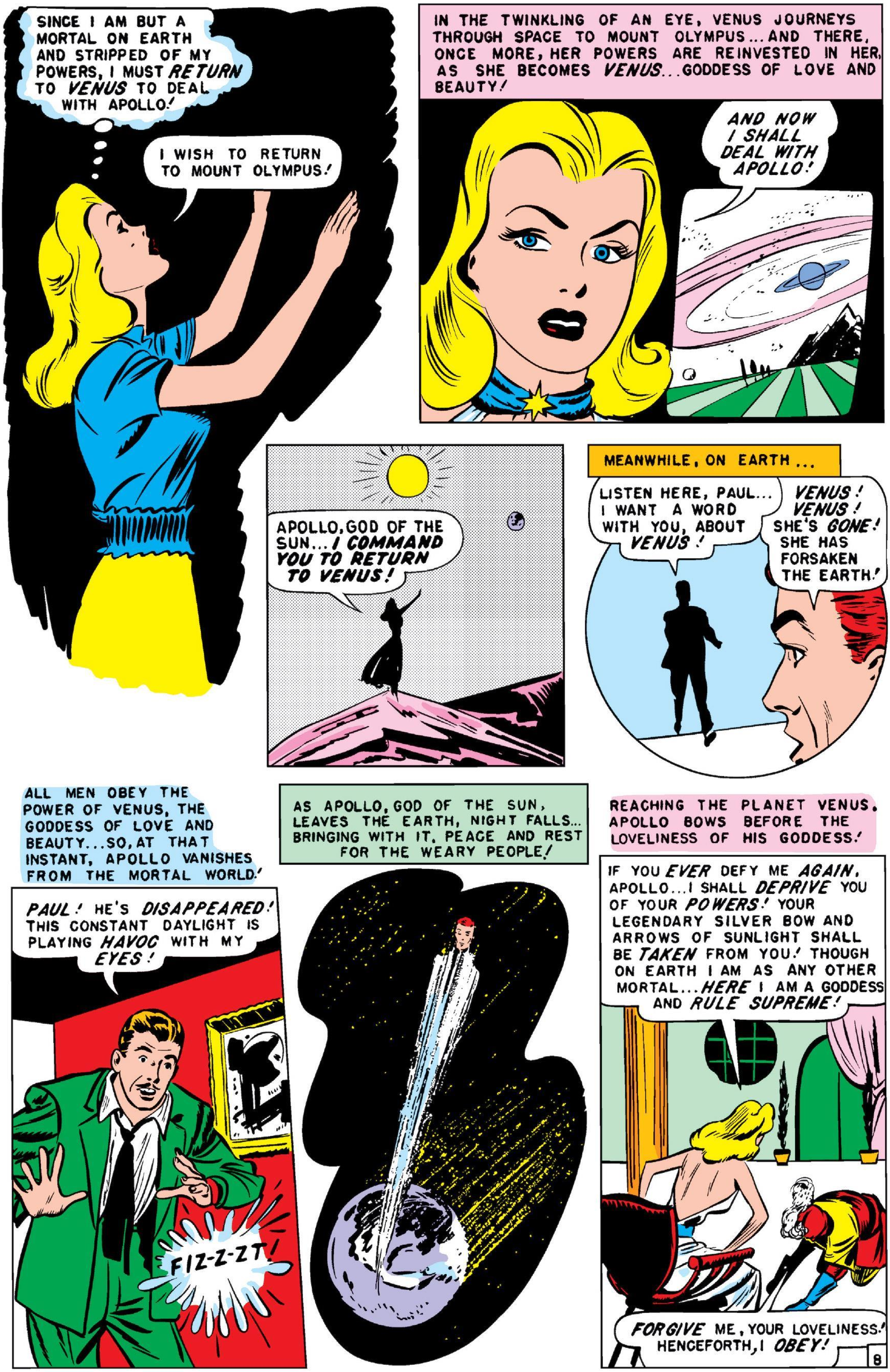

DOWN THROUGH COUNTLESS MILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS AND EONS OF TIME, VENUS FLOATS TOWARD EARTH AND MORTALITY... AND IN HER WAKE FOLLOWS *APOLLO!*
ONCE MORE, VENUS RETURNS TO THE OFFICES OF BEAUTY MAGAZINE!
I FEEL AS THOUGH SOMEONE WERE FOLLOWING ME!
LUCK IS WITH ME! NOW I SHALL FIND OUT WHAT VENUS DOES HERE ON EARTH!
BEAUTY MAGAZINE
WHITNEY HAMMOND PUBLISHER
VENUS EDITOR
SO *THAT'S* IT! PERHAPS I, *TOO,* MIGHT BE CONNECTED WITH THIS PUBLICATION! BUT FIRST IT WOULD BE WISE TO OBTAIN A *REGULATION COSTUME* OF THESE EARTH PEOPLE!
BETWEEN HAMMOND'S UTTERANCE OF ONE WORD AND ANOTHER, VENUS HAS MADE HER TRIP TO MOUNT OLYMPUS AND HAS RETURNED!
. . . PREPARED TO WORK HARD AND FAST!
TIME, AS SUCH, DOES NOT EXIST! FOR *ME!* IT TOOK ONLY ONE FRACTION OF A SECOND TO COMPLETE MY JOURNEY... AND WHITNEY ISN'T EVEN AWARE OF IT!
A SHORT TIME LATER, APOLLO, THE SUN GOD, RETURNS AND SPEAKS TO DELLA, HAMMOND'S SECRETARY!
I SHOULD LIKE TO SEE MR. HAMMOND AT ONCE, PLEASE!
OH! YES, SIR!
(SIGH!) WHAT A MAN! HE LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF THIS WORLD!

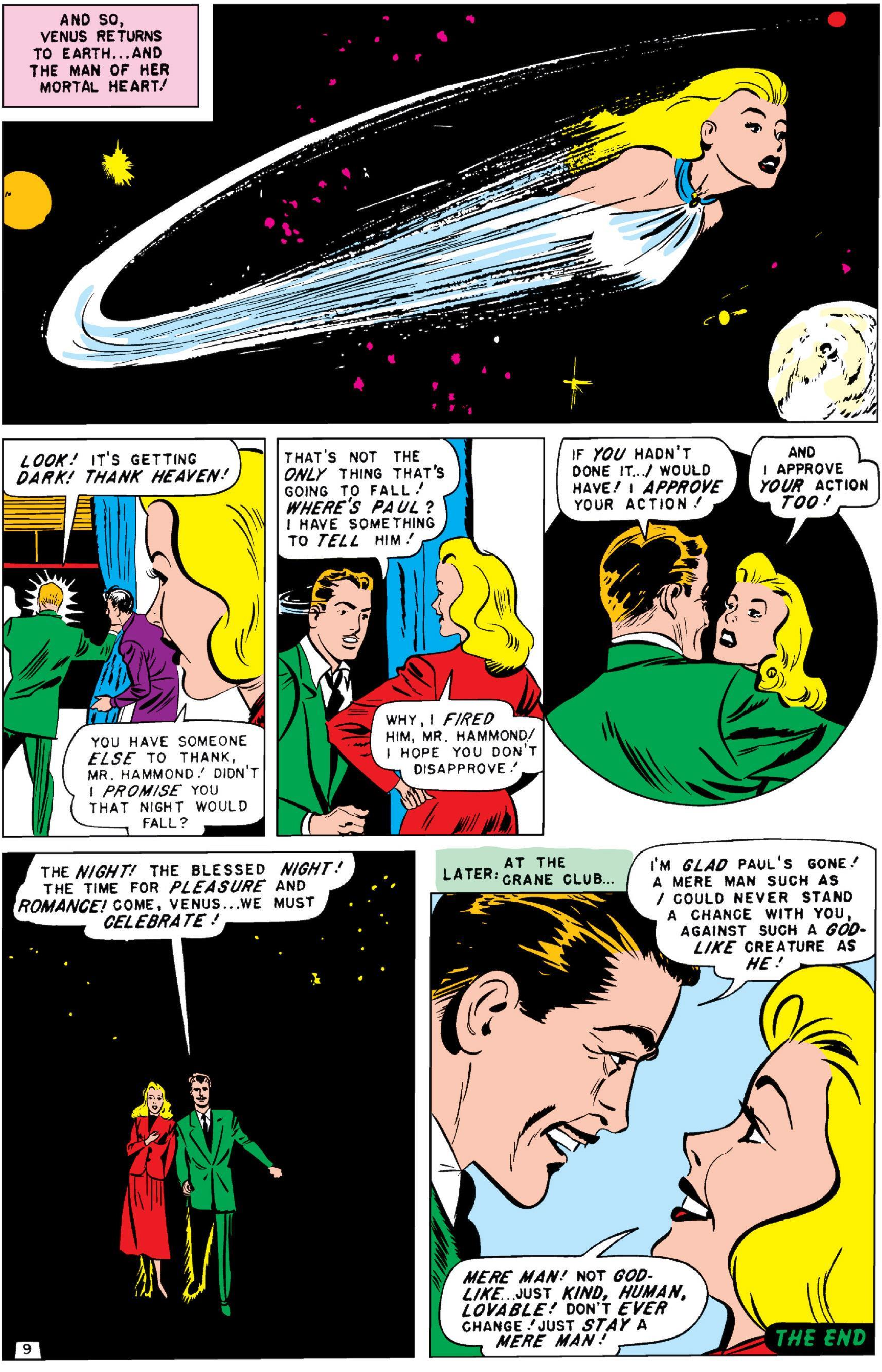

YOU WISHED TO SEE ME? COME INTO MY OFFICE, PLEASE!
YES! I WISH TO BE AFFILIATED WITH YOUR PUBLICATION!
NEY
MOND
ARS
AS A MATTER OF FACT... WE *ARE* RATHER SHORT-HANDED...BUT WHAT ARE YOUR *QUALIFICATIONS*?
MY NAME IS AP... ER, *PAUL BELVEDERE*, AND I HAVE AN *EXTENSIVE ACQUAINTANCE* WITH THE *MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN* OF *ALL TIME!* IN FACT, I AM A *CONNOISSEUR* OF *BEAUTY!*
I'LL GIVE YOU A TRIAL AS *ASSOCIATE EDITOR* TO *VENUS!* SINCE SHE HAS TAKEN OVER, OUR CIRCULATION HAS *TRIPLED*... AND WE ARE WORKING LIKE MAD TO GET THE NEXT ISSUE OUT!
THAT WILL SUIT ME *PERFECTLY*... THANK YOU SO MUCH!
VENUS, THIS IS YOUR NEW ASSOCIATE EDITOR, *PAUL BELVEDERE!*
YOUR HELP WILL BE LIKE A GIFT FROM THE GODS! IN FACT, YOU REMIND ME VERY MUCH OF SOMEONE I KNOW!
HE'S THE *IMAGE* OF *APOLLO!* EVEN THE *NAME*... BUT NO! IT IS JUST A *COINCIDENCE!* THIS IS A *MORTAL MAN!*
GOOD LUCK, PAUL! VENUS WILL SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO!
WE HAVE A TREMENDOUS LOT OF WORK AHEAD OF US! YOU SIT NEXT TO ME, AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO!
WITH *PLEASURE!* I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A WOMAN AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU ON THE *FACE* OF THE *EARTH!*
ISN'T MR HAMMOND WONDERFUL? I'M SURE YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE WORKING FOR HIM!
SO *HAMMOND'S* THE ATTRACTION! VENUS MUST NOT THROW HERSELF AWAY ON A *MORTAL!* I MUST DO ALL I CAN TO *PREVENT* IT!


THE HOURS PASS, UNNOTICED, AS EVERYONE WORKS FEVERISHLY TO GET THE MAGAZINE OUT!
WHEW! I'M *TIRED!* SEEMS AS IF I'VE BEEN WORKING HOURS...BUT IT'S STILL SO SUNNY, IT CAN'T BE VERY LATE!
STILL LATER, AS TIME PASSES AND THE SUN CONTINUES TO SHINE BRIGHTLY...
MY! THIS SEEMS LIKE A *LONG DAY!*
JUST WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN THINKING! I WANT TO CHECK MY WATCH WITH YOURS!
WHY, THIS WATCH SAYS *12 O'CLOCK, TOO!* IT'S *MIDNIGHT!* BUT THE *SUN* IS STILL SHINING!
IT'S MORE BRILLIANT THAN I'VE EVER *SEEN* IT!
YOU WANTED MORE TIME FOR YOUR WORK, DIDN'T YOU? PLEASE DO NOT COMPLAIN! YOU SHOULD BE *GRATEFUL* TO THE *GODS!*
IT'S *AMAZING!* IT'S A *MIRACLE!*
MAYBE IT'S THE *END* OF THE *WORLD!*
HERE'S AN *EXTRA!* ALL THE SCIENTISTS ARE PUZZLED! NO ONE CAN *EXPLAIN* IT!
MY SUSPICIONS ARE BEGINNING TO BE AROUSED! BUT *NO*... IT COULD NOT *POSSIBLY* BE!
AS LONG AS I REMAIN ON THE EARTH, THE SUN WILL CONTINUE TO SHINE!
I THINK WE ALL NEED A REST! LET'S CALL IT A DAY...AND *WHAT* A DAY!
VENUS, I SHOULD BE GREATLY HONORED IF YOU WOULD CONSENT TO HAVE DINNER WITH ME!
WHY, I SHOULD *LOVE* TO, PAUL!


WELL, *HE'S* CERTAINLY A *FAST WORKER! I* WAS GOING TO ASK VENUS TO GO OUT WITH *ME!*
THERE'S A NEW PLACE ON THE ROOF OF THE GRAND HOTEL... LET'S GO THERE!
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND, VENUS!
THE MORE I THINK OF IT, THE MADDER I GET! HE'S GOT SOME *NERVE!* VENUS IS *MY* GIRL! I'M GOING TO FOLLOW THEM!
ON THE ROOF GARDEN OF THE GRAND HOTEL, THE GOD AND GODDESS DINE ON MORTAL FARE...
THIS WINE IS LIKE THE NECTAR OF THE GODS!
SO YOU *DO* REMEMBER! COME OUT ON THE TERRACE! I WOULD HAVE A WORD WITH YOU IN *PRIVATE!*
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THE BLACK OF NIGHT MOST ROMANTIC... BUT THERE'S *SOMETHING* ABOUT THIS *SUNSHINE!*
DON'T YOU KNOW WHY, VENUS? DON'T YOU *RECOGNIZE* ME?
DANCE WITH ME-- WHILE I EXPLAIN ABOUT THE SUNSHINE!
OHO! I GOT HERE JUST IN TIME! DON'T YOU KNOW VENUS IS *MY* GIRL?
IN HIS ANGER, THE SUN GOD GLARES AT HAMMOND, AND DIRECTS A RAY OF SUNSHINE AT HIM!
HOW DARE YOU ADDRESS ME SO? I AM APOLLO...GOD OF THE SUN!
NO! DON'T...DON'T HURT HIM--! *APOLLO!*
NOW NIGHT WILL *NEVER* FALL UNTIL YOU CONSENT TO *LEAVE* THE *EARTH* AND *RETURN* TO MOUNT OLYMPUS!
YOU FORGET YOURSELF, APOLLO! *I SHALL NOT RETURN UNTIL I HAVE FOUND WHAT I AM SEEKING HERE!*


THEN *I STAY* UNTIL *YOU COME* TO YOUR *SENSES!*
WH-WHAT HAPPENED? I FEEL AS THOUGH I HAD *SUN STROKE!*
OH, *WHITNEY*, MY LOVE... *SPEAK* TO ME!
NEXT DAY... AT LEAST THE CLOCK PROCLAIMS IT SO... AT THE OFFICES OF BEAUTY MAGAZINE"...
WHY CAN'T I *SLEEP?* I CAN'T GO *ON* LIKE THIS!
THE BRILLIANCE OF THE SUN EVEN PENETRATES THE CLOSED CURTAINS OF MY APARTMENT, AND KEEPS ME AWAKE!!
VENUS! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO *DO?* WE CAN'T GET THE MAGAZINE OUT WITH EVERYONE IN *THIS CONDITION!*
I KNOW! *NO* ONE CAN WORK WITH THIS EXHAUSTION! PERHAPS I CAN *DO* SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
NOW, MY DEAR,,, WHAT CAN *YOU* DO? THIS LACK OF SLEEP IS GETTING *YOU*, *TOO!*
PLEASE *TRUST* ME! I ASSURE YOU THAT DARKNESS *WILL COME!*
R-R-R-P-R!
POOR KID! NOW SHE THINKS SHE CAN TURN OFF THE *SUN!*
HELLO! YES... *WHAT?*
I MUST ASSERT MY AUTHORITY! *APOLLO MUST GO!*
THE *PRESSES BURNED OUT* AND *BROKE DOWN!*... WORKING SO LONG! I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE *PLANT!*
DID YOU SUMMON ME, O GODDESS?
APOLLO... THIS MUST *STOP!* I ORDER YOU TO RETURN TO MOUNT OLYMPUS AT ONCE!
SPEAK NOT SO, YOUR LOVELINESS! I DO NOT LIKE TO *DISOBEY* YOU! BUT I *MUST*, UNLESS YOU COME *WITH* ME!
REMEMBER, HERE ON EARTH YOU HAVE NO POWERS! ON EARTH, I CAN *DEFY* YOU!
IF YOU DO NOT DO AS I COMMAND, YOU MUST *SUFFER* THE *CONSEQUENCES!*


SINCE I AM BUT A MORTAL ON EARTH AND STRIPPED OF MY POWERS, I MUST *RETURN* TO *VENUS* TO DEAL WITH APOLLO!
I WISH TO RETURN TO MOUNT OLYMPUS!
IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, VENUS JOURNEYS THROUGH SPACE TO MOUNT OLYMPUS... AND THERE, ONCE MORE, HER POWERS ARE REINVESTED IN HER, AS SHE BECOMES *VENUS*... GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY!
AND NOW I SHALL DEAL WITH APOLLO!
APOLLO, GOD OF THE SUN... ***I COMMAND YOU TO RETURN TO VENUS!***
MEANWHILE, ON EARTH...
LISTEN HERE, PAUL... I WANT A WORD WITH YOU, ABOUT *VENUS*!
VENUS! VENUS! SHE'S *GONE!* SHE HAS FORSAKEN THE EARTH!
ALL MEN OBEY THE POWER OF VENUS, THE GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY... SO, AT THAT INSTANT, APOLLO VANISHES FROM THE MORTAL WORLD!
PAUL! HE'S *DISAPPEARED!* THIS CONSTANT DAYLIGHT IS PLAYING *HAVOC* WITH MY *EYES*!
FIZ-Z-ZT!
AS APOLLO, GOD OF THE SUN, LEAVES THE EARTH, NIGHT FALLS... BRINGING WITH IT, PEACE AND REST FOR THE WEARY PEOPLE!
REACHING THE PLANET VENUS, APOLLO BOWS BEFORE THE LOVELINESS OF HIS GODDESS!
IF YOU *EVER* DEFY ME *AGAIN*, APOLLO... I SHALL *DEPRIVE* YOU OF YOUR *POWERS*! YOUR LEGENDARY SILVER BOW AND ARROWS OF SUNLIGHT SHALL BE *TAKEN* FROM YOU! THOUGH ON EARTH I AM AS ANY OTHER MORTAL... *HERE* I AM A GODDESS AND *RULE SUPREME*!
FORGIVE ME, YOUR LOVELINESS! HENCEFORTH, I *OBEY*!


AND SO, VENUS RETURNS TO EARTH...AND THE MAN OF HER MORTAL HEART!
LOOK! IT'S GETTING DARK! THANK HEAVEN!
YOU HAVE SOMEONE ELSE TO THANK, MR. HAMMOND! DIDN'T I PROMISE YOU THAT NIGHT WOULD FALL?
THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING THAT'S GOING TO FALL! WHERE'S PAUL? I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL HIM!
WHY, I FIRED HIM, MR. HAMMOND! I HOPE YOU DON'T DISAPPROVE!
IF YOU HADN'T DONE IT...I WOULD HAVE! I APPROVE YOUR ACTION!
AND I APPROVE YOUR ACTION TOO!
THE NIGHT! THE BLESSED NIGHT! THE TIME FOR PLEASURE AND ROMANCE! COME, VENUS...WE MUST CELEBRATE!
LATER: AT THE CRANE CLUB...
I'M GLAD PAUL'S GONE! A MERE MAN SUCH AS I COULD NEVER STAND A CHANCE WITH YOU, AGAINST SUCH A GOD-LIKE CREATURE AS HE!
MERE MAN! NOT GOD-LIKE...JUST KIND, HUMAN, LOVABLE! DON'T EVER CHANGE! JUST STAY A MERE MAN!
THE END

MARVEL COMIC GROUP

RED UNIT

Annie Oakley
Blackstone the Magician
Blonde Phantom
Complete Mystery Stories
Crimefighters Always Win
Georgie
Ideal Comics
Joker Comics
Justice
Lawbreakers Always Lose
Margie
Marvel Mystery Comics
Millie the Model
Namora
Nellie the Nurse
Patsy Walker
Sub-Mariner
Sun Girl
Teen Comics
Tessie the Typist
Tex Morgan
Two-Gun Kid
Wild Western
Willie

BLUE-YELLOW UNIT

All-True Crime Cases
All Winners
Blaze Carson
Captain America
Cindy
Comedy Comics
Frankie
Gay Comics
Hedy de Vine
Human Torch
Jeanie
Junior Miss
Kid Colt
Krazy Komics
Lana
Mitzi
My Romance
Oscar
Powerhouse Pepper
Rusty
Super Rabbit
Tex Taylor
The Witness
Venus
Wacky Duck

Hi, Friends:

The editors of this magazine would like to ask you an important question — Why are you reading this magazine?

We believe the answer is that you enjoy comics, and that you enjoy reading this particular comic.

We want to help you protect your right to buy and read your favorite magazines, as long as they contain nothing that might be harmful to you. That is why we are writing you this open letter.

Lately, lots of people have been criticizing comics. They have been saying that comics teach you youngsters things that are not good for you, things like violence, cruelty, immorality, etc.

Some time back, we were fortunate in obtaining editorial advice from Dr. Jean Thompson, a psychiatrist in the Child Guidance Bureau of the New York City Board of Education. Dr. Thompson read our magazines, approved our stories generally, gave us suggestions for the finest kind of stories, and agreed to serve as editorial consultant on all future magazines. She will insure the fact that our comics contain nothing that might meet with objections from your parents, teachers or friends.

That is *our* answer to the charge that comics are bad.

Now, this is the way we can help *you* keep the privilege of buying and reading what you want. The magazines listed on this page are all in the Marvel Comic Group. Look through them, and you will see that there is nothing in these magazines that could possibly be considered harmful. Then show them to the critics of comics. Prove to those people that here is reading matter that no one can criticize.

Use judgment. Buy only the best comics, like the magazines listed on this page, or any of the other *good* ones, and prove to people that the magazines *you* read are above criticism.

If you do that, no one will ever want to take your magazines away from you.

The Editors
Marvel Comic Group